



HOME IS SHUT AFTER REPORT

Report by Jamie Brassington

A SEDGLEY care home has closed after a damning inspection report by health watchdogs which raised issues of poor food, staff shortages and risk of infection.

The Rose Villa Nursing Home, in Tipton Road, was rated 'inadequate' in the report by the Care Quality Commission. The home's bosses have since closed the premises.

In the report, inspectors claimed residents 'were not adequately protected from the risk of infection' and they 'did not receive a choice of meals and the quality of food provided was poor and not nutritious.'

Only one area of the nursing home's service was not rated inadequate and inspectors said care at the home 'required improvement'.

The inspection at the Rose Villa, which could cater for up to 27 elderly people or people with physical disabilities, was on October 6.

An earlier inspection, carried out on April 21, found that the nursing home had failed to make the necessary improvements.

The report stated: "We carried out a further focussed inspection of the service to check that the provider had made and sustained the improvements they had told us they would make.

Concerns

"At this inspection, we found that the provider had failed to make the improvements they told us about. We also identified some other concerns which we raised with the provider on the day."

During the first inspection, 11 people were living at the home.

Inspectors found the environment appeared clean and that a domestic cleaner was on site six days a week, working from 9am to 2pm.

But one staff member told inspectors: "There is too much work for the domestic, he does his best, if we have a couple of minutes we will do some cleaning."

Staff had not received infection control training, inspectors noted. A member of staff said: "I have to work in the kitchen, but I've never done food hygiene training. It's not right." Another said: "I think staff need more training."

It was also noted that staff lacked training in fire safety and were unaware of the procedures.

Rose Villa closed down around three weeks ago.

POKÉMON NO! MOBILE GAME FRENZY CLOSES ROAD



Paganel Drive, near Priory Park, has been closed to vehicles because of the Pokémon Go craze that has seen the park become popular with gamers

A ROAD in Dudley town centre has been blocked off to try to halt chaos caused by Pokémon Go players.

Dudley Council has been inundated with complaints from people living near Priory Park who claim that hordes of gamers have been causing a nuisance in and around the 12th century priory ruins.

Bosses have now gone to extraordinary lengths to try to disrupt the craze around the park. They say they have been forced to take action because of the complaints about parking and noise problems.

Players of the game, which has taken the nation by storm, have been flocking to the priory ruins to try to catch the virtual world Pokémon creatures on their mobile phones.

The area is a designated PokéStop, offering players various incentives in the game which superimposes the creatures onto real locations.

Gamers have been accused of parking on double yellow lines, playing music late at night and causing damage to the ruins in their search for the Pokémon.

Bollards and cones have now been placed

across Paganel Drive and Gervase Drive as the council seeks to combat the problem.

Environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "Following complaints from local residents about parking, late night noise and concerns about blocking of access for emergency services vehicles, we listened to their concerns and put temporary road blocks in place to reduce these issues. These arrangements are subject to an ongoing review."

Dudley councillor Ken Finch said the authority had been left with no other option due to the strength of feeling in the area.

EDUCATION

Children's services to stay with council

DUDLEY'S children's services department will continue to be run by the local authority, thanks to improvements.

The Department for Education threatened to take the department out of the control of the council after failings were uncovered by Ofsted inspectors in April.

However, since troubleshooter Eleanor Brazil was brought in to get children's services up to scratch, the situation has improved. A new report says chiefs are 'focussed, ambitious and creative' and that Ms Brazil has brought 'rigour and thoroughness' to improving the department.

RECREATION

Park's dog-free zone set to stay

A CONTROVERSIAL six-month scheme that saw dogs banned from a section of Himley Park could become permanent.

The pet-free zone covered the park's main entrance down to the West Gate, running alongside the Himley Road. The rest of the park is still available for dog owners to walk their pets.

The six-month trial came into force in February and, although it was due to come to an end last week, council bosses say it will continue for the foreseeable future.

CRIME

Teenager fought off sex attacker

A TEENAGE girl was sexually assaulted in a Rowley Regis park before she was able to fight back and flee.

The victim entered Britannia Park from Britannia Road, when she was grabbed from behind and knocked to the floor around 11pm last Monday (August 1).

She fought back, possibly slightly injuring her attacker who was described as mixed race or Asian, of medium build and with brown hair. He was wearing a dark hooded top, dark trousers and trainers.

The victim asked a group for a cigarette outside the Britannia Inn prior to the attack. Anyone who can help police call 101.

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Tributes paid to popular musician



John Cooke – died suddenly

TRIBUTES have been paid to a much-loved Black Country figure, known for his music and signature bandana, who has died suddenly.

John Cooke could often be seen cycling around Stourbridge, and lived in The Broadway, Norton.

According to friends he died on July 30 from a heart attack, aged 67. He was well-known for not only being a talented musician but as a mentor to others in the area, as well as a regular face in the town's Caffe Nero.

Close friend and freelance composer Marcus Tristan has published his own

musical tribute to John on Facebook. Mr Tristan was the associate composer with the St Petersburg State Symphony Orchestra Klassika between 2003 and 2009, and his tribute piece to John is called Quixote Dreaming.

He explained: "John was a lifelong admirer and adherent of the poetry of Lord Byron, and pictured himself as the romantic hero of the poem Don Juan, swashbuckling hero who was irresistible to all women and with a sardonic wit and turn of phrase. In actual fact, John was a much deeper, more sympathetic character than the Don in Byron. John

was much more the kind, chivalrous and idealistic Don in Cervantes' Don Quixote, who tilted at windmills in idealistic fervour but who also was possessed of high moral principles which made him the kindest, most generous man I have ever known."

Memories of John have filled his Facebook page. Milton Reame-James said: "I would also like to add my respects to John's passing. He was an intrinsic part of a great scene while I lived in the Stourbridge area. I'm glad so many have shared their memories of this one-off, fun and well loved guy."

Regret at disruption caused by major fire

A RECYCLING firm has expressed regret for the disruption and damage caused when a huge blaze erupted at its Black Country plant.

The fire broke out at Environcom's recycling yard on Rufford Street, Lye, on Sunday afternoon. Massive black plumes of smoke filled the sky and were visible as far away as Edgbaston cricket ground.

The flames spread to adjoining businesses, including parts of the Stratstone Land Rover showroom where staff raced against time to move the cars to safety.

Nobody was injured in the blaze.

The investigation into the cause of the inferno continues, but it is not being treated as suspicious.

An Environcom spokesman said: "We would like to thank the West Midlands Fire Service for their prompt and effective response to the incident which occurred in the yard at our West Midlands site.

"Site controls ensured that all employees were evacuated quickly and safely and no damage was sustained to the operating machinery and site.

Windows

"We regret the disruption and damage this caused to third parties and are working with the fire service to understand the cause of the fire."

Residents were also warned about a potential drop in water pressure due to fire crews using a lot of the supply, and advised to close their windows.

A stretch of Stourbridge Road was closed for several hours and a precautionary warning was issued to trains travelling through nearby Lye station.

It is the third fire at the Lye recycling site in nine years, with the last being in April 2011 when it was Overton Recycling Ltd and a 30-ton pile of plastic went up in flames.

In May 2007, staff were evacuated after a fire started in a recycling machine.

A West Midlands Fire spokesman said: "We sent 11 pumps to the scene. It involved general waste inside a recycling yard, including polystyrene packaging and refrigerator gas. The fire spread to adjoining properties which suffered light damage."

Minibus gutted in early morning blaze



Arsonists are suspected to have started a blaze which gutted a minibus in Dudley during the early hours of Monday

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a minibus fire which is believed to have been started by arsonists.

This was the dramatic scene as firefighters tackled the blaze in the early hours of Monday.

It took place in Farthings Lane, just off the Duncan Edwards Way, Dudley, shortly before 2am.

In total, ten firefighters were called to the scene of the inferno and put the vehicle fire out in less than half an hour.

West Midlands Fire Service spokesman Matthew Smith said: "We got a 999 call at 1.52am to the fire and sent two fire crews to the scene.

Deliberately

"The incident involved one minibus alight in the roadway.

"One firefighter was wearing breathing apparatus and one hose reel jet was deployed to tackle the blaze.

"Police were also in attendance as it was believed the fire was started deliberately.

"We left the scene at around 2.20am," Mr Smith added.

The fire crews were from Brierley Hill and Dudley fire stations.

Pictures taken at the scene by fire crews from Brierley Hill show the bus was fully engulfed by flames as firefighters battle to extinguish the blaze.

Society's mortgage applications up to £54m

A BUILDING society has reported a big increase in the number of mortgage applications and completions in the first six months of this year as more people in the Black Country look to get on to the property ladder.

Between January and June, mortgage applications at The Tipton and Coseley Building Society reached £54.86 million which compared to £38.29m during the same period last year – an increase of 43 per cent.

Half-year mortgage completions in 2016 totalled £35.91m, compared to £21.73m in 2015, which was up by more than 65 per cent for the society.

Richard Newton, the Tipton's chief executive, said: "The economic outlook remains challenging so to achieve such upbeat figures is a great achievement.

"We've helped many of our customers get onto the property ladder as a result of our competitive mortgages, which includes our new 100 per cent Family Assist and Shared Ownership mortgages, and we'll continue to work hard to widen our product range."

The Tipton's 100 per cent Family Assist mortgage has been designed to help those who don't have a deposit to borrow up to 100 per cent of the property's purchase price, with a collateral charge taken as additional security against a family member's property.

A valuation of the purchase property and family member's property are required, charged at the Tipton's normal scale fees. There are no product fees with the Family Assist mortgage.

Poppies are back with new line-up

STOURBRIDGE alternative rock favourites Pop Will Eat Itself are back on the road 30 years after they were formed in the Black Country, albeit with one original member.

The outfit, reformed as PWEL v2.0 in 2011, features original drummer Graham Crabb, who has taken on singing duties since original frontman Clint Mansell went to America and became a top Hollywood soundtrack composer.

The gig at The Robin 2 venue in Bilston on Sunday, October 2, is likely to be their only Midlands concert this year. The band, who had a top ten hit in 1993 with Get The Girl! Kill The Baddies!, released an album, Anti Nasty League, via their own online shop last year. Tickets cost £18 (£20 on the door), see www.therobin.co.uk or call 01902 401211.

Zoo sadness over death of sealion

THE oldest sealion has died at Dudley Zoo. Patagonian sealion Cleo died from natural causes on Thursday afternoon. In June 2 she had turned 28, making her one of the oldest sealions in captivity with life expectancy usually between 20 and 25.



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Councils in different policies on term holidays

PARENTS who take their children out of schools in Staffordshire for holidays of up to 10 days will no longer be fined – but Dudley Council is still insisting that absences in term time will only be allowed ‘in exceptional circumstances’.

County council bosses voted on the temporary rule change following the recent Isle of Wight case, which saw a father fined £120 after he took his daughter out of school for a holiday. The High Court decided his punishment was unlawful, prompting Staffordshire to suspend fining parents.

Councils across the country have issued more than 208,000 holiday fines, reaping £12.5 million, since laws were brought in during 2013 allowing them to fine each parent £60 for each child taken out of school during term time.

Councillor Ben Adams, Staffordshire’s education chief, said the decision to impose a 10-day limit on term-time holidays pending a full review was ‘a commonsense approach’.

Holidays taken in school holidays can cost thousands of pounds more than those during term. The Wight case is currently under appeal.

Councillor Ian Cooper, Dudley Council’s cabinet member for children’s services, said that schools would ‘continue not to authorise leave of absence in term time except in exceptional circumstances’.

“For the time being it does mean we have revised our procedures and are taking into account a longer period of time when assessing whether to take proceedings or not,” he added.

Engineers sign up firm for £12m

A TIVIDALE street lighting manufacturer has been bought by West Midlands engineering group Hill & Smith in a £12.5 million deal.

Signature Ltd employs around 130 people at its three sites, at Tividale, Winsford in Cheshire and Renfrewshire in Scotland.

Hill & Smith, which makes road safety barriers at its factory in Bilston, said Signature’s road signs, traffic signals, street lights and bus shelters would add to its existing range of products.

There is no suggestion the deal will have any impact on jobs.

Signature, based at Hainge Road, had been sold to Hill & Smith by its previous owner, the French-based Plastic Omnium Group.

Reggae sounds at town venue

A REGGAE and dancehall disco takes place in Dudley next month. It will be held at The Venue in High Street on Friday, September 2 from 8.30pm.

Tickets cost £7 and are available from skiddle.com

Himalayan trek raises cancer charity cash



Sharon Blake, WHCS Information Officer, Sarah Hill, and manager Caroline Webb

A DUDLEY foster mum has raised £2,500 for White House Cancer Support by fulfilling a dream to trek the Indian Himalayas.

Sharon Blake, aged 53, trained for 18 months before conquering the world’s highest mountain range.

She said: “I covered 103 miles across incredibly tough terrain in just 10 days, camping in basic shelters en route, but was determined to complete it to raise funds for White House Cancer Support.

“I became familiar with the charity’s work through a family mem-

ber and know they do brilliant work across the Black Country, so I was delighted with the final amount raised.”

Mrs Blake, of Blackacre Road, self-funded the trip at a cost of £2,060.

She said: “I saved hard to get there, so I was determined to complete the trek, although it was hard going at times. I certainly couldn’t have done it without the support of my family and husband Darron who was an absolute rock when I was training and planning the journey.”

Sharon trained on Snowdonia and the Malverns prior to the trip, and

boosted the final total with raffles, tombolas, a charity evening and a bake-off at her daughter’s coffee shop, in Bromsgrove.

White House Cancer Support manager Caroline Webb said: “Sharon has raised a significant amount for our general funds and we are immensely grateful for her efforts.

“It was an incredible challenge to tackle and we’d like to say a big thank you to her for such a generous gift.”

The charity, in Ednam Road, Dudley is a drop-in centre for people affected by cancer.

‘Stupid’ pair blew up bedsit mixing drugs

TWO men blew up a bedsit, causing £50,000 damage, when one lit a cigarette as they mixed drugs with butane gas in an ill-fated bid to produce cannabis oil.

“This was more than foolhardy behaviour in what was already an extremely dangerous situation – the whole thing went up like something out of a cartoon,” Mr Andrew Wallace, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Terrence Scarrett and Matthew Coley were both badly burned by the blast that gutted the first floor Brierley Hill bedsit in which they were soaking cannabis leaves with the lighter fuel stored in gas cylinders.

The explosion on October 29 blew out windows and led to neighbouring properties being evacuated while fire crews battled the blaze. Nobody else was injured.

“The room they were using was burned to a cinder with the walls stripped back to the brickwork,” explained Mr Wallace.

Another resident at the house in Stourbridge Road, which had been split into five bedsits, told police: “I heard a loud bang. Scarrett was screaming ‘help me.’ They were trying to put the flames out with buckets – then, there was a second bang.”

Scarred

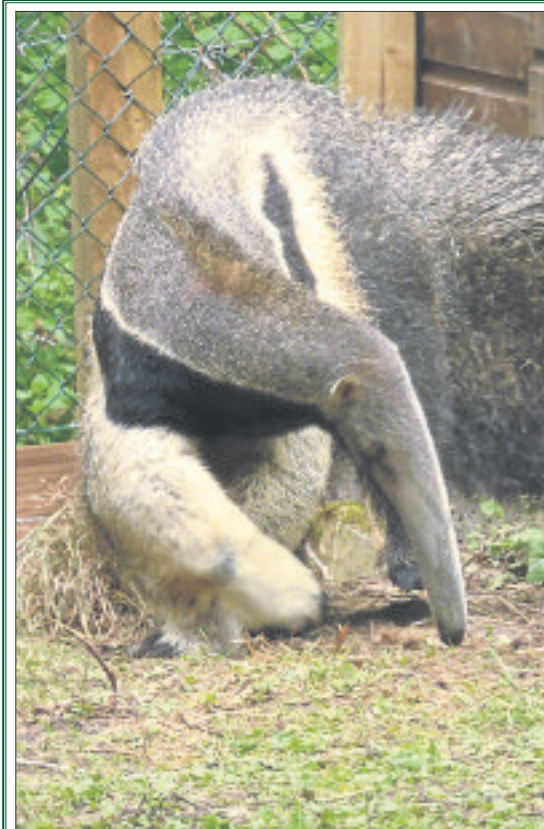
Scarrett, aged 22, was living at the property while 26-year-old Coley was using a spare bedroom when the blast happened. Both went to hospital for treatment to serious burns to the arms and face that have left them scarred for life.

Fire investigators later explained: “The atmosphere in the room had been so volatile that a short out on a light switch would have been sufficient to spark an explosion.”

Mr Christopher O’Gorman, defending Scarrett of Kestrel Road, Russells Hall, said: “He is prone to making ridiculously stupid decisions and this was the worst of them.”

“The crass stupidity of the defendants created the circumstances in which the fire could ignite but they did not deliberately set it.” Scarrett and Coley, of Blewitt Street, Brierley Hill, both pleaded guilty to arson when reckless as to whether life was endangered. Each was jailed for three years.

Judge Michael Challinor told them: “You put at risk the lives of other tenants and the fire officers who came to deal with the incident.”



A Giant Anteater called Romy arrived from the Czech Republic last week and she is pictured taking her first steps in her paddock at Dudley Zoo

Romy noses around her home

DUDLEY Zoo has welcomed a special new arrival at the Castle Hill attraction.

For all the species that the zoo has on offer, 11-month-old Romy is the first giant anteater at the zoo its 79-year history.

And Romy has wasted no time in roaming, she has been out and about exploring her new surroundings.

The anteater has joined from Olomuc Zoo in the Czech Republic.

Curator Richard Brown, said: “We’re very excited to have Romy here. As a lot of visitors mistake our Brazilian tapirs for anteaters, they can actually see them now too and notice the differences. As we approach the zoo’s 80th anniversary next year, it’s great to still be bringing in new animals and be involved in even more conservation programmes.”

Romy took her first steps out into her new paddock last week. A species found in the tropical forests and grasslands of Central and South America, anteaters have no teeth and use their long tongues, which can project more than two feet, to eat up to 35,000 ants and termites a day in the wild.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Night time road closures ahead

A SECTION of Birmingham New Road will undergo three weeks of road resurfacing.

Highways bosses have given the green light to improve the road surface along a section of the A4123 Birmingham New Road, south of Tipton Road to Coneysgate Road – close to Burnt Tree junction.

The work on the 900 metre section of road, north and southbound, starts on Monday and is expected to last three weeks. It will be carried out on weekday nights, from 7pm, to minimise disruption for motorists.

Lead poison link to death of swan

A SWAN has died from suspected lead poisoning despite efforts by firefighters to save it.

Brierley Hill Fire Station helped to rescue the swan, after it was found by a member of the public in Cressett Avenue, Brierley Hill. In a tweet West Midlands Fire Service said: “Poor swan sadly suffering from suspected lead poisoning. Passed to @RSPCA, official following rescue by crews.”

The swan subsequently died. An RSPCA spokesman said: “This is a reminder about how dangerous fishing tackle can be for wildlife.”

History of glass is subject of talk

STOURBRIDGE’S glassmaking heritage will be in the spotlight during a talk at the town’s library next week.

British Glass Foundation trustee Graham Fisher will give the talk, called ‘A New Home – The White House Cone’ start at 2.30pm on Wednesday (August 17).

Refreshments will be available from 2pm.

For more information and to book tickets, priced £3, contact the library on 01384 812945.

Mayor to hand out garden show prizes

COMMUNITY gardens in Dudley are holding their second show this weekend. It is at the Jasmine Road Community Gardens, Kates Hill, on Saturday from 11am to 4pm, with plants for sale and entertainment.

The theme is up-cycling, which aims to find new uses for materials.

Councillor Mo Hanif, Mayor of Dudley, will hand out certificates to show winners. Categories include largest vegetable, the most classic shaped vegetable and the best up-cycled product.

Arthritis support group

A SUPPORT group is on offer for people with arthritis in Dudley. The Dudley Rheumatoid Arthritis support group meets from 1.30 to 3.30pm on the first Thursday of the month at the King William pub, Pensnett Road, Holly Hall. Details via Edith on 01902 676 136 or Barbara on 01902 885734.

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YOU know how it is when you read a court case and think, no, that can't be right. A driver in Norfolk was clocked driving at 154 mph in something called a Seat Leon Cupra . The magistrates ordered him to pay £365 and banned him for 56 days. At first I assumed either the speed or the sentence was wrongly reported. But no, it seems the going rate for driving at 94 mph over the speed limit in Norfolk is a little less than two months off the roads. Police have described the sentence as "disappointing" which demolishes my initial theory that the 21-year-old driver must have been the Chief Constable's lad.

THE Seat Leon Cupra, incidentally, is capable of 155mph. Why is such a car offered for sale in a country where the maximum limit is 70mph? How does a 21-year-old get insurance to drive it?

THIS week saw yet another doomed attempt by the so-called energy watchdog Ofgem to persuade punters to shop around for the best energy deals. Why are we so reluctant? Because we don't like playing damn silly games with strangers. I am convinced that whoever dreamed up the current system of multiple power companies tempting us with money-saving tariffs was inspired by the board game, Snakes and Ladders. You stay with one deal until the price suddenly shoots up. You switch to another and the price slithers down. A few weeks pass and the price goes up again. And with every change you are bombarded with junk mail and have to arrange a new direct debit.



Trump has managed to bad-mouth the first two in a single week. How long before he is overheard muttering: "Goddam apple pie, I hate it."

AND off to Sudeley Castle in the Cotswolds. As at so many attractions, there is a discount for over-60s in the belief that old people who can afford to wander around mediaeval castles are all living in grinding poverty. What happens in practice is that grey-haired folk glide into the car park in their BMWs and Mercs and get £1 knocked off the entry fee while ordinary working couples turn up in battered old people carriers and pay the full whack.

A FRIEND'S new house boasts four lavatories. Three are the modern, eco-friendly, water-saving WCs. The fourth is an old-fashioned low-level job with a cistern connected to the pan by a short pipe. The strange part is that the old-fashioned bog works perfectly with one flush but the modern ones have to be flushed twice.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Villagers in call over road safety

THE safety of pedestrians is at risk on a village road, according to campaigners who are demanding new safety measures.

More than 180 people have signed a petition calling for action on Church Hill in Kinner.

They believe the road, which joins onto High Street in the centre of the village, is dangerous, listing various incidents along the road during the

past few years including crashes and people being hit by cars.

Church Hill has a 30mph speed limit but the campaigners feel this needs to be lowered to 20mph and other safety measures added.

Over the last 10 years, they villagers claim there have been several serious incidents including a crash near the Cross pub to which the air ambulance was called. A pedestrian

was said to have suffered a broken leg in 2009 after being hit by a car.

Staffordshire County Council highways boss Mark Deaville said extra signage was planned on the road and experts would look at whether more measures were needed.

He said: "We have received the petition and are currently investigating this matter, along with the local county councillor Brian Edwards.

We have carried out a survey and are looking to provide additional signage and will continue to monitor the situation."

Despite residents' concerns, Councillor Henry Williams, who represents Kinner on South Staffs Council, believes not much more can be done.

He said: "The highways teams have done speed checks and they are quite happy."

MP hopeful of solution to congestion problems

By Richard Guttridge

MP Ian Austin says he is hopeful of a solution to traffic problems on two busy roads in the borough.

The Dudley North representative said he was optimistic of highways bosses resolving the issues.

He said he had received complaints about congestion at the junction of Parkes Hall Road and Sedgley Road as well as speeding on a stretch of the Birmingham New Road. He has been in discussions with Dudley Council's highways boss Hilary Bills.

Drivers are often left frustrated as they queue in tailbacks at the Parkes Hall Road junction during morning rush hours and Mr Austin said he was keen to see if anything could be done ease congestion.

Speed

Campaigners also say drivers leaving the Foxyards estate in Woodcroft Avenue to get onto the Birmingham New Road face problems due to the speeds of oncoming cars on the dual carriageway.

There have long been calls for traffic lights at the junction leading to Woodcroft Avenue on the border of Tipton and Dudley. Some 600 people signed a petition in support of the safety measures.

Mr Austin said: "Congestions causes huge tailbacks at Woodseton in the mornings and afternoon rush hours. People have to queue for ages and I have been working with local councillors to press the council to sort it out."

Councillor Bills said she was happy to meet with residents and would update them on work being done in the area.

She said: "I regularly go out and meet people to look at the problems and have a chat so people can tell me what the issues are. A lot of the things I know about anyway but I will be able to update them."

Speeding on the Birmingham New Road has long been a problem which police and council bosses have been trying to tackle.

Glassworks apartments a cut above



The historic former glassworks overlooking the canal in Wordsley look barely recognisable from a year ago

WORK to transform a historic former glassworks site near Stourbridge into apartments is ploughing ahead with five already reserved.

The renovation of part of the Stuart Crystal site, opposite the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley, is gathering pace.

A section of the old glassworks buildings in Wordsley are being refurbished and are already taking the form of stylish apartments. Buildings overlooking the canal look barely recognisable from a year ago, when it was in a state of disrepair with no windows.

Much of the renovation work is complete, with current work focused on laying new paving surrounding the buildings. The British Glass Foundation has secured

£2.1 million to support the transformation of the site, which also includes the opening of the new Museum of Glass. Complex Development Projects is overseeing the development, which also includes the creation of offices. The project as a whole is expected to cost around £5 million.

The apartments range from £120,000 to £240,000. Stewart Alcock, sales director at Lex Allen Stourbridge, said he was hoping they would be ready by September.

"We have had quite a lot of interest and considering that they are very much under construction still, we already have five reserved.

Wordsley councillor Paul Brothwood said he was impressed with how the development was progressing.

Switch to saving cash in energy campaign

DUDLEY Borough residents are being encouraged to think ahead and get saving on their energy bills with autumn looming.

Dudley Council is urging people to be proactive and to sign up to its latest Big Switch campaign. At the last campaign in May, the average saving was more than £300 per household. The Big Switch brings people together to reduce their energy bills by switching their energy suppliers collectively.

The more people who register; the better the deal offered by the energy companies. The deals offered are market leading rates which are not available through ordinary switching sites.

In previous auctions more than 6,000 people across Dudley have registered to switch with great savings on offer. People can register online or by phone to take advantage of cut price rates offered by energy companies.

The Big Switch auction opened again on August 2 and closes for registration on October 10.

The scheme is open to all households, including people living in rented accommodation, those with a prepayment meter or people paying for dual fuel or for gas and electricity separately and those with a fuel debt of up to £500 or less.

Councillor Gave Partridge, cabinet member for housing, said: "Now is the ideal time to be registering to save ready for the coming colder winter months."

Call Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch.

Improvements at school are praised

A PRIMARY school in Dudley has been praised following an inspection by education standards watchdog Ofsted.

Brierley Hill Primary School was rated as 'good' by the school inspectors – the second highest grading after outstanding – following the review by the education body.

It is a major boost from the school after it was given a 'requires improvement' rating during a previous visit by inspectors.

Ofsted said leaders at the school had helped to deliver 'significant changes' at the Mill Street school and that the performance of disadvantaged pupils had improved.

Teaching at the school was also said to be good across the board in the report.

Rock band tribute performs in town

A TRIBUTE to Guns N' Roses will take to the stage at the River Rooms in Stourbridge next week.

UK Guns N' Roses will perform on Friday (August 19). Tickets cost £8.

For details call 01384 397177 or visit www.theriverrooms.com

Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership



Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople

perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service Dudley & the surrounding areas and manager Brian Stanley agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good

business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Goodyear staff find other work

NEARLY half the workers at Wolverhampton's Goodyear plant have been made redundant months ahead of closure. The iconic Bushbury Lane site is due to shut on December 31 with the loss of 330 jobs.

Redundancies are being phased with bosses confirming 135 workers have already left. The company states the vast majority have already found work.

A spokesman said: "At the end of June 135 employees had been made redundant. Of these, 125 have already gained alternative local employment."

Porsche showroom travellers move on

A GROUP of travellers who set up camp at a Porsche showroom in Wolverhampton have now moved on.

West Midlands Police were originally called to the site of the £5 million dealership with reports of threatening behaviour towards staff.

The police, however, said no criminal offences had been committed and advised the land owners to get a court order to evict them.

The travellers left the car park with the police dog unit called to support their removal.

Restaurants and apartments bid

A RESTAURANT and apartment complex could be built on a former industrial estate.

A drive-thru Burger King, Papa Johns, a retail unit and nine apartments, one of them one-bed, are proposed for the former Cox Hire site, on Birmingham Street A458, 500 metres to the east of Stourbridge town centre.

Parking would comprise of 26 spaces with 10 allocated to the apartments and controlled by bollards. Two disabled spaces would be included.

Music and games at church activity day

LIVE music, games and a barbecue will be among the attractions at a family fun day in Dudley this weekend.

Saturday's event will be hosted by Divine Community Church and will feature a performance by the band Harmony.

Activities will also include face-painting and henna and an array of games with prizes on offer.

It will run from noon-3pm at Abberley Street Centre in Abberley Street.

History society talk

THE director of both the Stourbridge Navigation Trust and the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Society gives a talk to Amblecote History Society, next month.

His talk will start at 7.30pm on September 14 in The Lehr Theatre at the Ruskin Centre. Admission is £2.

Bring back Liquidator tune, say Wolves fans

WOLVES fans are calling on the new owners to bring back The Liquidator.

The club stopped playing the pre-match reggae instrumental after it was hijacked by some supporters shouting obscenities, but fans have long since called for its return.

A petition set up last year was signed by more than 1,700 people. But now more than 760 people have now signed the online petition on Change.org.

Fans have been galvanised since former chairman Steve Morgan sold the club to a Chinese consortium, and riches from the Far East have already been piled into the club to bring in a number of high-profile signings and new manager Walter Zenga.

Some supporters are hoping that the Fosun revolution at Molineux could see Wolves' wealthy new owners seek to endear themselves further to fans by bringing back the famous song, which is played at clubs up and down the country, including West Bromwich Albion's ground.

John Felton, who started the petition, said: "We at Wolves have a song we want to be brought back to our beautiful football club as the team runs out."

Fellow supporters voiced their support by commenting on the Change.org petition. Carl Huntbatch, from Wolverhampton, said: "It belonged to us long before anyone else."

But Matt Grayson, head of marketing and communications at Wolves, said they had no current plans to play the song at Molineux.

Police probe after alcohol is stolen

POLICE have launched an investigation after Stourbridge War Memorial Ground was burgled and bottles of alcohol were taken from the bar.

The break-in was believed to have taken place between August 1 at noon and 8am the following day. Some 20 bottles of alcohol were stolen.

Police officers are now looking at CCTV footage and are appealing for anyone with information to come forward.

West Midlands Police spokesman Hannah Fitzgerald said: "There was damage to windows and doors and 20 bottles of alcohol were stolen. We are looking at CCTV around the ground and on the road."

Anyone with any information should call police on 101.

Open mic comedy night held at pub

A WEEKLY open mic comedy night is held in Cradley Heath every Thursday night. Admission is free to the Hollybush Comedy Night at the pub in Newton Lane with the show getting under way at 8pm.

Nightclub licence revoked over violence



Rock Zombie, King Street, Dudley

A DUDLEY nightclub plagued by gang-related violence has been shut down by the council.

Police chiefs said they believed there was a real prospect of a 'tragedy' occurring at Rock Zombie if it was allowed to continue.

Conditions were imposed on the club's licence in March but the King Street venue has continued to attract trouble.

There were a string of violent attacks during June and July, which included a customer being punched and kicked on the dance floor and an

assault on a bouncer. On the advice of police, Dudley Council's licensing committee revoked the club's premises licence.

Trouble has been associated with the venue for the past year, with a number of serious incidents - including a Christmas Day machete attack - leading to the previous action in March. Officers had been called to the club 74 times since the start of 2015.

And with violence continuing since, police chiefs said closing the premises was the only option.

Inspector Julie Mason told the

hearing: "I strongly say there is a real concern if the licence continues there will be an escalation in gang attendance at that venue."

West Midlands Police's legal representative Duncan Craig said: "There is a very real concern it is going to end with something hugely tragic and something hugely unwelcome in Dudley."

Owners Kenny and Mandy Jinks said they had done their best to comply with the conditions imposed by police and claimed the trouble would just move on to other Dudley venues.

Campaigners close in on theatre takeover

CAMPAIGNERS are close to completing an agreement which would allow them to take over Dudley Hippodrome.

Black Country Hippodrome wants to renovate the famous venue and re-open it as a theatre.

The group said the deal with Dudley Council was being finalised and they expected it to be given the keys before the end of this month.

The campaign group will be handed a five-year lease to allow the group to refurbish the derelict former theatre on Castle Hill after their last-ditch rescue bid saved the iconic venue from the bulldozers.

The building is in need of a complete overhaul having been closed for seven years when it was last used as a bingo hall. It has not been a theatre since 1960s.

Asbestos needs to be removed and repair work is needed to bring it up to scratch to host plays, shows and community events.

Black Country Hippodrome board member Steve Daniels said: "We hope it will all be completed by the end of August and we can get the keys - it could be the next two weeks. Then we can start to move on."

Constraints

"It is one of those things, it does drag on a bit. All we can do is take it day by day. But the council has been great."

The group has said that, due to funding constraints, it was likely to be at least four years before the doors to the Hippodrome were thrown open again.

Mr Daniels said a full feasibility study of the building would have to be carried out before any work could begin.

He said: "Once we have got the keys we can start to progress. The first thing we have got to do is have a proper survey on it and then take it from there."

The group has said it needs around £5 million to restore the Hippodrome to its former glory. One plan is to allow people and companies to sponsor seats.

The famous old building was just two weeks away from demolition when the agreement was struck.

Dudley Council's plans to knock the Hippodrome down and replace it with an open space remain in the background, ready to be brought back out should the group fail to refurbish the building.

Bears to visit Brum for family fun



Louise McCathie, Michelle McLoughlin and Sally-Ann Wilkinson look forward to The Big Sleuth

MORE than 100 giant bear sculptures will be leaving their paw prints all over Bear-mingham next summer as the sequel to last year's Big Hoot arrives in the city.

While Owl sculptures brightened up Birmingham last time, Now Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity and creative producers Wild in Art have announced that a second trail is planned for next summer. But this time the characters will be 'sun bears'.

The Big Sleuth will see the individually designed, 165cm tall, sculptures appearing throughout the city, inspiring residents and tourists to uncover Birmingham's cultural gems and discover areas of the city they may not have explored before.

Michelle McLoughlin, chief nursing officer at Birmingham Children's Hospital, said: "The Big Sleuth is really important as not only will it inspire civic pride

and give families a free and fun day out but we also hope to raise over half a million pounds to support the pioneering work we do here each day."

"We are at the beginning of another really exciting journey, one which we hope will bring lots of sleuthing, joy and laughter. We would encourage our corporate friends to help us make it bigger and better than The Big Hoot." Visit www.thebigsleuth2017.co.uk

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Liquidator call brings back dark memories

BRING back The Liquidator is the message coming from the crowds at Molineux, who want to hear the classic reggae tune return to match days.

More than 750 have signed a petition calling for the Harry J Allstars instrumental to be played at the start of home games, after it was dropped in the 1990s when fans began singing obscenities about their rivals to the tune.

It all reminds me of the dark days in the 1980s, when the Bhatti Brothers were in charge. Nobody was calling for The Liquidator then.

□□□

IT IS 25 years this week since former British hostage John McCarthy was freed from captivity in Beirut. November will mark the 25th anniversary since Terry Waite was freed.

Waite, one might recall, was the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy who travelled to Beirut in an attempt to persuade terror group Islamic Jihad to free the hostages, including McCarthy, Second World War hero Jackie Mann, and Irish lecturer Brian Keenan.

He went there on trust, believing that as a man of the church, rather than a politician or diplomat, the terrorists would listen to him.

He was wrong. Instead of honouring the trust placed in them, the men of Islamic Jihad concocted a story about the hostages being ill and needing to see him. They then kidnapped him and kept him in solitary confinement for the best part of five years.

Since his release, Waite has worked tirelessly for several charities, and given up his time to help the families of other hostages. He was made a CBE for his efforts.

Meanwhile, in David Cameron's resignation honours list, Will Straw, the son of former home secretary Jack Straw is also recommended to become a CBE.

His only notable contribution to date is organising the failed campaign for Britain to remain in the European Union.

David Cameron's former press secretary Craig Oliver is to be given a knighthood, while a couple of wealthy Tory Party donors are also in line for life peerages.

Is a political spin doctor really to be valued more highly than a man who knowingly put his life on the line in the hope of helping others?

Does spreading scare stories about leaving the EU really equate to a lifetime's selfless charity work?

Surely by now, Terry Waite has done enough to earn a knighthood.

And I can't help but think he would use a seat in the House of Lords to far greater impact than any political placeman.



Tons and tons of recycling waiting to be sorted



Bins left on the pavement waiting to be collected

Why some bin rules are often rubbishished

Recycling – what is OK to dispose of in one area could be rejected by a neighbouring council, as ROB COX explains

FROM empty juice cartons to yoghurt pots and plastic bags – many people are unclear about what they can and cannot put in their recycling bins.

And to make matters worse moving house in Staffordshire or the Black Country can change the rules entirely.

What goes in Dudley might not go in Sandwell and what is wasted in Stafford might be saved in Wolverhampton.

There are some things that are collected and recycled from all homes serviced by our region's local authorities: Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell, South Staffordshire, Stafford, Cannock and Walsall.

These include glass bottles, newspapers, magazines and cardboard.

Nappies

And there are some items which are not accepted as street collection recycling by any of the councils including nappies and polystyrene. But there are other items where the rules are not universal.

Plastic bags are accepted in recycling bins in Stafford, Cannock, Sandwell, South Staffordshire and Walsall. But try putting them in your recycling bins in Dudley or Wolverhampton and you might find yourself in a spot of bother.

Firstly, if there are notable amounts of plastic bags or other wrong items, your bin may not be collected.

And if the unsuitable items are not spotted, the whole vehicle load of recycling could be contaminated, which could result in it being rejected for recycling and diverted to landfill.

The vast majority of homes in the Black Country and Staffordshire can put out empty food containers – namely juice cartons, mar-



Too much rubbish and bin overfull, with lids open, is frowned upon

garine tubs and yoghurt pots – and have them taken away for recycling from their doorstep.

That is unless you live in Dudley where these items are prohibited from the borough's black boxes, blue bags and green boxes. But they can be taken to recycling banks or placed in a home's general waste bin.

Advice on Dudley Council's website, states: "Plastic items such as yoghurt pots, margarine tubs and meat trays tend to be made of lower grades of plastics that are difficult to recycle, please don't include them in your green bag."

"All of the waste we collect from your grey

bin, including plastic items unsuitable for recycling, is used to generate electricity rather than being sent to landfill.

"We are unable to collect food and drink cartons (such as fruit juice or UHT milk) through the kerbside recycling service."

"These can be taken to a number of recycling banks located across the borough, or disposed of in the grey bin."

* For detailed information on 'what goes where' in your bins visit your local authority's website.



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Short-sighted and unacceptable

I WOULD like to add my comments regarding funding cuts to voluntary organisations across Dudley Borough.

I have worked in the voluntary sector since 1981 and while now retired from employment I volunteer and am a board member of a number of voluntary and charitable organisations. I fully accept changes are needed and some cuts are inevitable.

Voluntary organisations manage their limited resources very well and the additional fundraising and involvement of volunteers vastly increases the value for money

of the services provided. As usual in Dudley there appears to be little co-ordination and services are being taken away before something else is put in place.

The impact of this uncoordinated approach to funding cuts will fall immediately, as always, on the vulnerable including frail and lonely older people, those with sight loss and debilitating long term conditions and their carers. In my opinion this impact is inevitable, short-sighted and unacceptable.

S HUBAND
Kinver

Still football dominates

NOW the Tour de France has finished, can I ask all of those people who deride cycling as a sport to get a video, particularly of the last two mountain stages, and watch what it is all about?

The number of riders who crashed, but got back onto their bikes and finished the stages – injured and bloodied, with torn clothing, yet finished the race. And footballers dominate our sports pages? And what about the thousands who stood for hours waiting for the race to pass for their love of cycling?

Former top racing cyclist Eddy Merckx, was once challenged by Feyenoord players to prove which sport was the hardest. Eddy worked with them for a week, but they could only last a few days with him. Ask Geoff Thomas what he thinks of the comparison.

P COLE
Kingswinford

We owe the fallen to hold parade

IN response to your headline about police not able to supervise/manage traffic for these remembrance day parades in Dudley. I understand their need to prioritise resources, but these parades deserve it.

I was glad to hear that off-duty police/PCSOs, etc are being asked to volunteer to cover these events, but the parade and remembrance service in Dudley town is well attended every year, and gets stronger, especially in these troubled times.

The figure of £1,500 quoted to have it supervised professionally is not that much, there must be funds somewhere to cover it, or a donation from business people. If I had my way, all traffic (except emergency vehicles) would be stopped during the two minutes' silence, as it used to years ago. Our war memorial service in town is sometimes blighted by traffic noise.

We all owe the fallen. It's not all about money or time lost.

Respect.
P WINCHURCH
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Labour could face years of oblivion

IN 1980, in response to an election defeat, Michael Foot was made leader of the Labour Party. He was an honourable man, intelligent and sincere in his beliefs. However, his strongly held left-wing politics and criticisms of weak leadership made him an unpopular leader and in 1983, Labour suffered a catastrophic election defeat.

He was replaced by Neil Kinnock who spent a decade fighting a civil war against a left wing group within the party.

The result was two further election defeats. Eventually Labour managed to move itself more towards the centre political ground under John Smith and then Tony Blair. Their election

victory in 1997 genuinely felt like a new start but of course it all ended in tears.

I look in despair at the current state of the Labour Party. The leader Jeremy Corbyn is an honourable man, intelligent and sincere in his beliefs. However, his strongly held left-wing politics and weak leadership have made him unpopular among his colleagues.

He is however, supported by a left-wing group within the party. This group looks likely to maintain Jeremy Corbyn in his position but the great danger is that after Jeremy's 15 minutes of fame, Labour will be condemned to a further 15 years of political oblivion.

N RIDNEY
Kingswinford

Centres bring pleasure to old

I SEE that Dudley Council has withdrawn its funding for Age UK activities in the Dudley area.

As a volunteer who goes to one of these centres I see the pleasure they bring to older people. The majority of these live on their own. Most of these centres provide a lifeline were they can meet their friends, play bingo, take part in activities.

We are not looking after our ageing population. The faceless highly-paid pen pushing bureaucrats should get from behind their desks and visit these centres.

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Headstone honour for hero of Rorke's Drift

HE fought against Zulu warriors in a bloody conflict later made famous in a film starring Michael Caine and Stanley Baker.

But despite his heroics at the Battle of Rorke's Drift in South Africa, Private Joseph Bromwich's service received little attention.

At his burial site at Bilston Cemetery there was no marked grave - little recognition of a soldier fighting 6,000 miles from home aged just 22.

He received the South African Medal for his service. Now, thanks to the seller and buyer, he will be honoured with a new gravestone. Stourbridge auctioneer Fieldings, which sold the medal for £49,000, has also contributed to the cost.

Brave

The gravestone reads: "A brave soldier at The Defence of Rorke's Drift, Natal, South Africa."

Pte Bromwich was born in Warwick in 1856, enlisting into the army aged 18 in 1877. He joined B Company of the Second Battalion 24th Foot, Second Warwickshire, in the same year.

He was present at the Defence of the Rorke's Drift Mission Station on January 22 and 23, 1879, with his name appearing on the roll completed by Lieutenant John Rouse Merriott Chard VC of the Royal Engineers.

The battle left 400 dead, 17 of them British, inspired the 1964 blockbuster movie Zulu.

Pte Bromwich was discharged from the Army in 1882. He settled with Bilston-born wife Betsy, in Aston, opening a boot and shoe repairing shop before moving to the Black Country. He died in 1916, aged 60, from hepatitis.

Nicholas Davies, director of Field-



The new marked headstone



Michael Caine in the movie Zulu



Fieldings auctioners director Nicholas Davies with the medal

ings Auctioneers, said: "After the sale of the medal the vendor, buyer and auctioneers all decided that the valiant actions of Pte Joseph Bromwich should not be forgotten so together they raised the funds to provide a headstone for the soldier's unmarked grave 100 years after his death."

The seller was from Kingswinford, while the buyer is from the Midlands

and has an interest in Zulu history. Both have asked to remain anonymous.

An official revealing of the headstone will take place on August 14. It will be dedicated by The Royal Legion Chaplain in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Wolverhampton, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Warwick, along with regimental organisations.

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Bodysnatcher ale a knockout brew



Darren McDermott, tight, enjoys the tipples with Sadler's Brewery ambassador Ian Bradshaw

ONE particular ale packed a punch at the Dudley Beer Festival as it was named after one of the town's former boxing champions.

Sadler's Brewery in Lye has dubbed its latest ale 'the Black Country Bodysnatcher,' the nickname of retired fighter Darren McDermott. 'Macca' was on hand himself to taste the concoction with its creators during the week-end-long event at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

The 38-year-old is still involved in the sport as a coach and has his own club, Brooklands, who are soon to relocate to Mount Tabor Church in Woodsetton.

The gym will benefit from sales of the tipples, which has a strength of 4.3 per cent, with the profits generated being donated to Brooklands.

McDermott hung up his gloves in almost tragic circumstances four years ago, when he underwent brain surgery after sustaining a blow to the head in sparring.

The former Midlands and English middleweight champion was forced to call time on a career that also saw him challenge for the British and Commonwealth titles.

Attacker sentenced to 29 years in prison

A MAN who pushed his ex-partner out of a third floor window and tried to stab two police officers has been jailed for 29 years.

After Marlon Bills shoved Lisa Turner through the window, she clung on to the ledge, but he peeled back her fingers, sending her plunging to the ground.

She managed to flee despite sustaining a broken back and

ankle, Birmingham Crown Court heard. Bills, a father of five, who was 'in a state of rage', then tried to attack two officers who had kicked down his bedroom door after being sent to arrest him on December 10.

Bills, aged 44, of Himley Road, Dudley, was described as 'arrogant, vindictive and calculating' by Judge Patrick Thomas QC. He was found guilty of causing grievous bodily harm with intent and two charges of attempted wounding with intent at a trial in June.

Jurors found him not guilty of attempted murder. He had pleaded guilty to breaching a restraining order. The judge handed Bills a 29-year extended term for causing GBH with intent. For each of the two counts of attempted wounding with intent he was given



Marlon Bills

eight years, with 12 months in prison for the breach of a restraining order, to run concurrently.

He also ordered him to pay Miss Turner £10,000 of compensation within six months.

Mr Christopher Whitehouse, defending, said alcohol 'appears to be a very substantial factor - if not the factor - in Bills' offending'.

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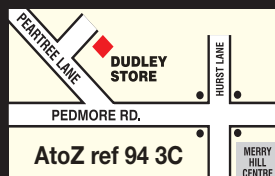
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Fizzogs link with Cole

BLACK Country funny man Jonny Cole is linking up with comedy group The Fizzogs when they make their return to the Edinburgh Fringe.

Cole will perform some of his comedy songs and compare the show when the Fizzogs perform their May Contain Nuts show at the Space venue from August 15 to 20.

Fizzog Sue Hawkins said: "We worked together on the Black Country Night Out and both have shows on Black Country Radio and admire one another's work."

The Fizzogs made their Edinburgh debut last year when they received rave media reviews and widespread acclaim from audiences.

Crime chief in pledge to resolve parade row

THE West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner is working with councils across the Black Country to ensure roads can be closed free of charge for Remembrance Day parades this year.

Parades across the the region were put in jeopardy last week after it was revealed a change in West Midlands Police policy means closing roads for the parades to honour fallen soldiers is now the responsibility of organisers – who face costly bills for professional traffic management contractors.

Letters seen by The Chronicle's sister publication the Express & Star state a decision has been made by the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police to introduce a change of policy by which the authority will no longer provide officers to carry out traffic management duties and enforce road closures for the parade.

Agenda

A meeting was held last week between West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police Dave Thompson and Deputy Chief Constable Louisa Rolfe.

Top of the agenda was a discussion over plans for this year's Remembrance Day parades.

Following the meeting, spokesman for the West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner Liz Joyce said: "We are working

By Jordan Harris

closely with councils on a common sense solution that sees roads closed free of charge and the parades go ahead as normal.

"West Midlands Police has already committed the same number of police officers to work the parades as previous years – and many more officers will volunteer their free time on the day.

"David Jamieson will not let red tape and bureaucracy stop us honouring our fallen soldiers," she said.

The battle to ensure Remembrance Day parades go ahead this year has also been taken up by Walsall North MP David Winnick, who wrote a letter to the Prime Minister Theresa May asking for the situation to be 'sorted out as quickly as possible'.

West Midlands Police has said it is 'absolutely committed' to supporting the parades again this year, with members of staff volunteering their time.

Their commitment will see neighbourhood policing units deciding locally what police presence is appropriate at each event, to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

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Students prove to be first class

STUDENTS from Tipton, Wolverhampton, Stourbridge, Halesowen and Brierley Hill are among 60 to achieve first class honours at the University of Worcester.

Mother-of-two Rosie Brown, from Hagley, has qualified as a midwife.

The 24-year-old said: "It's been a real struggle balancing family life with two small children and a full time degree, but I've felt so well supported by both the university and my family; for anyone questioning it I would say go for it."

Twenty-one-year-old Bethany Turner, from Tipton, leaves Worcester with a degree in history. "I really enjoyed my course and found it challenging the way I thought and worked. I have now been accepted for a Masters degree in Early Modern England at Birmingham."

Young tennis ace serves up gold in Transplant Games



Kingswinford tennis player Kristof Polgar, eight, represented Birmingham Children's Hospital

A SCHOOLBOY who underwent life-saving surgery is aiming to follow in the footsteps of his hero Novak Djokovic, after a championship display at this year's British Transplant Games.

Kristof Polgar, aged eight, who underwent a liver transplant in 2011, is now dreaming of Centre Court stardom after an impressive gold medal haul during the annual games, held in Liverpool.

The youngster, from Kingswinford, was born with a rare genetic disease called Progressive Familial Intrahepatic Cholestasis (PFIC).

Following a transplant at Birmingham Children's Hospital when he was just three, the determined youngster has gone from strength to strength and now receives tennis coaching three times per week at Tipton Sports Academy.

Woman climbs free after car overturns

TWO people were taken to hospital following two collisions on the same stretch of road.

They were taken to Russells Hall Hospital following a single-vehicle crash between Wombourne and Sedgley, last Tuesday morning, but their injuries were not serious.

Emergency crews were called to Wodehouse Lane, near Wombourne at around 7.15am.

A woman later climbed from an overturned car following a two-car crash on the same stretch.

One of the cars ended up on its roof following the collision in Gospel End Road, Sedgley. The woman suffered a head injury, but refused hospital treatment.

Another woman and three children were in the other car but were unhurt.

Fire crews from Dudley Fire Station attended alongside ambulance crews and police closed the road to enable recovery work to take place.

Hotel plan poised for the go-ahead despite objections

PLANS for a new hotel in Dudley, close to the town's main attractions, were poised to be given the go-ahead this week, despite 'very strong objections' from the Friends of Dudley Archives.

Dudley planners have been recommended to approve the proposals for a 78-bed Travelodge in Tipton Road – within a stone's throw of both Dudley Archive and Local History Centre and the Black Country Living Museum.

They were meeting on Tuesday to determine

the scheme. The Friends of Dudley Archives have objected, chiefly on the grounds it will remove parking from the site, which will soon also be the home of exhibitions from Dudley Museum.

The four-storey hotel on the former Royal Brierley Crystal factory site would house 72 car parking spaces, three for motorcycles and eight bicycle parking bays, according to plans.

The factory was demolished in 2011 and the northern part of the site has been redeveloped for the Dudley Archive and Local History Centre. Janet Lea, honorary secretary of the Friends

of the Archives, has lodged an objection, highlighting parking as a key concern adding land earmarked for the hotel was currently considered 'an overspill parking area' for the Archives.

A design and access statement submitted as part of the planning application states: "Hotels are under represented within the area."

"The proposed hotel would bring with it a number of benefits to the local and wider area including employment, increased spending within the local area, supporting tourism, and development of a vacant site with a viable and long term use."

Doors open for school leavers

A LEADING business and finance company has opened its doors to sixth-formers for a two-week taster session as part of its fast-growing recruitment initiative.

Sixth-formers from King Edward VI College and Sixth Form in Stourbridge and The Kingswinford School joined Grant Thornton, Birmingham, for an intensive two-week programme as part of its school leaver recruitment programme.

Activities included shadowing senior managers and directors, visits to local client companies and working on a live project for Grant Thornton's client Purplebricks.

After a presentation on their Purplebricks projects, successful students were offered a training position.

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Flat blaze is tackled

TWO fire crews were called to a blaze in the bedroom of a first floor flat.

A 999 call was received by West Midlands Fire and Rescue at 9.13am last Thursday to the flat on Lea Bank Road in Brierley Hill.

Crews were sent from Brierley Hill and Oldbury. All the residents had been accounted for and had got out safely.

Two breathing apparatus and one hose reel were used, and the fire was brought under control. Firefighters left the scene at 10.20am.

Up-cycling is the theme at community's garden show

UP-CYCLING will be the theme for a community group's second garden show.

The event will take place at Jasmine Road Community Gardens, Kates Hill, on Saturday.

Certificates will be presented by the Mayor of Dudley to winners in a number of categories.

There will also be entertainment, food and plant sales, from 11am to 4pm.

A Dudley community garden are holding their second garden show.

The theme of the event will be up-cycling - similar to re-cycling but finding new uses for the materials.

There will be certificates presented to winners of categories including best up-cycled product and the largest vegetable. There will be entertainment and food on offer as well as plants for sale.

Zoo keepers pick up ideas

KEEPERS at Dudley Zoo have been attending conferences across the country to learn more about the animals they keep.

Senior keeper Sam Grove learned more about crocodiles when he attended BIAZA's Reptile and Amphibian Working Group meeting in Oxfordshire. Meanwhile, primate keeper Jade Redall joined presenter Dorrie Hall for the third International Animal Training Conference at Twycross Zoo.

FOCUS ON DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE

Frankenstein movie is a scream in spooky setting

IT WAS an eerie night at Dudley Castle for hundreds who enjoyed a spooktacular evening watching horror classic *The Bride of Frankenstein* in the historic courtyard.

On Saturday night the venue was transformed into an open-cinema and more than 600 people watched the classic 1935 film directed by Dudley's own Hollywood director James Whale.

They also watched a short horror movie made by Dudley College students.

The feature film was shown on a blow-up screen while images of Frankenstein and other spooky images were projected on to the castle walls to add to the atmosphere.

Dudley Zoo teamed up with Flatpack: Assemble to produce the event as part of Flatpack's Black Country Pop-up Film Tour.

Venue

Ian Francis, director at Flatpack said: "We couldn't have found a more fitting venue for *Bride of Frankenstein* than Dudley Castle."

"There's a real passion for film across the Black Country and we hope the success of this event will lead to more pop-up screenings in the future."

Matt Lewis, Dudley Zoo Manager, added: "We were

happy to work alongside Flatpack: Assemble to bring *Bride of Frankenstein* to the 11th century Dudley Castle and were delighted with the event's popularity.

"Hopefully we can join forces again in the future on similar projects."

The event was also welcomed by Parminder Dosanjh, artistic director at Creative Black Country which is in partnership with Flatpack to deliver the tour.

She said: "The Black Country is a perfect place for pop-up film, it has lots of great spaces, community hubs and film enthusiasts."

Son of a furnaceman James Whale, who died in 1957 aged 67, came from Park Hill Street, Buffery Park, and was an actor and stage director before making such Hollywood classics as *Frankenstein* and *The Invisible Man* in the 1930s.



Joseph Sheppard from Dudley has monster fun in fancy dress at the castle's outdoor screening of *The Bride of Frankenstein*

Cheers as festival has a reprieve

DUDLEY Winter Ales Fair has been saved and will take place at Dudley Town Hall in late November.

The popular event was being cancelled after the Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale could not find someone to take over as festival organiser.

At an emergency meeting in the Lamp Tavern, the branch's social secretary Jacqui Edwards was voted in to the post. She will be assisted by Simon Hanson from Stourbridge and Halesowen Camra.

The branch had invited members from other West Midlands branches to the meeting in an effort to save the festival, which will now go ahead from November 24 to 26 in Dudley Town Hall. Camra regional director Gary Timmins said he was delighted it had been saved.

Engine gets up to steam

THE only full-sized working replica of Thomas Newcomen's famous steam engine will spring to life at the Black Country Living Museum this weekend.

Visitors will be able to see the engine up close and meet the volunteers who run it as it is due to be steamed up between 10am and 4pm on Saturday and again on Sunday.

People are asked to call the museum on 0121 557 9643 first to check the engine's working schedule.

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'No help' for more than half of young jobseekers

Engineering £10m project



Taking shape – skeleton structure as beams form the main atrium

A £10 MILLION development at Wolverhampton University's Telford campus is beginning to take shape.

Work on the new engineering department at the Telford Innovation Campus in Priorslee is now a skeleton structure, with beams forming the main atrium.

Building work on the project started in April and is part of the University of Wolverhampton's £250 million Our Vision, Your Opportunity investment plan.

The University is investing in advanced engineering facilities and

courses in response to nationwide shortage of qualified engineering graduates. New courses will include BEng (Hons) Motorsport Engineering, BEng (Hons) Chemical Engineering and BEng (Hons) Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering.

The buildings will house state-of-the-art equipment, including a design and visualisation facility, wind tunnels, engine test facilities, 3D printing facilities, and laboratories dedicated to electronics and telecommunications, metrology and materials testing research.

MORE than half of young people in the West Midlands said they had no support from anyone when searching for a job, the results of a poll have revealed.

A total of 54 per cent of those aged between 16-25 complained of the lack of support, when asked by the Prince's Trust. The trust has also revealed it has returned an estimated £134 million in 'value to society' in the West Midlands in the last 10 years.

John O'Reilly, director for The Prince's Trust in Central England, said: "There is a social bank of mum and dad which can open as many doors as the financial bank of mum and dad. Sadly, not all young people have the same access to it, and all too often young people are locked out of jobs and other opportunities simply because of where they've started in life."

Aspirations

"Those who received more help with extracurricular activities, homework or finding work experience are also more likely to have higher aspirations, be higher earners and have a more positive outlook on life today."

Mr O'Reilly added the research findings show clear evidence of social immobility linked to a lack of inherited opportunities.

A total of 44 per cent of young people from poorer backgrounds said they didn't know anyone who could help them find a job, compared to 26 per cent of their more advantaged peers. While 20 per cent of those questioned found some work experience through their parents, only 10 per cent from a poorer background said they did.

The estimation that the Prince's Trust has returned £134 million in value to the West Midlands considers the return on investment of getting young people off benefits, reducing offending and re-offending, helping young people to achieve at school, and the associated savings to the public purse.

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THERE are around 11 million denture wearers in the UK and it's not just the elderly who require them.

Surprisingly, nearly a million people aged 16 to 44 have false teeth.

There will be many different reasons for adult tooth loss – the most prevailing being dental disease – but wearers will all likely have at some stage another common problem: Stabilisation – particularly lower dentures that randomly move about and are hugely unpredictable.

If not addressed, displacement becomes progressively worse and as the denture rises from the gum, food particles are trapped beneath and sore spots quickly develop.

Secure

Despite bucketfuls of fixative, in the words of one patient, "the dentures appear to take on a life of their own" and sufferers can't eat what they want, when they want.

It's an all-too-familiar, daily story in any clinic.

Particularly for those without any teeth, gum profiles change through the passing of time and so does the denture fit as initial harmonious matches between gums and prosthetics are slowly compromised with bone and gum erosion.

Lifting, twisting and general movement of dentures is a sure indicator that a new



Denture Clinic Principal Steven Burchell with dental nurse Lydia Tranter

A tighter fit for dentures and no fixative?

prescription is required. False teeth are one of the most hard-working parts of the body, so it's vital the dentures have an exacting fit and are not prone to move.

What every denture wearer seeks are secure, comfortable teeth that don't embarrass while laughing, eating, talking and coughing – dentures that allow them to live

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Roman towards future as factory sold



When the mosaic was unveiled in 1997, factory bosses Robert and Mike Pioli with West Bromwich MP Betty Boothroyd

A VANDAL-STRICKEN landmark in Tipton has been put up for sale for more than half a million pounds.

The Roman Mosaic site, situated on Bloomfield Road, has been targeted by arsonists in recent years. It has now been put on the market for around £575,000 by Dudley-based chartered surveyors Sellers.

The factory, which is recognised by its notable chimney also has a unique tile mosaic of a Black Country canal scene on the corner of the premises.

Councillor Ian Jones, who represents the Tipton Green ward, said he would welcome a new development.

There have been calls for the distinctive mosaic, which is just under 20 years old, to be kept intact.

Councillor Jones said: "We would like to see a worthwhile end to this now - whether it be if a similar factory took over the site or a new housing development."

"It has been left derelict for some years now. It is in a prime location so we are all really pleased that something will be done with it now."

Sellers says that the site has 'a range of industrial buildings which have been subject to vandalism/arson damage'.

Roman Mosaic moved to the Bloomfield Road site in the mid 1980s. They had been based in Burnt Tree island, Dudley, previously.

In 1997 former West Bromwich MP and House of Commons speaker, Baroness Betty Boothroyd, unveiled the canal mosaic artwork tile along with the factory bosses.

Keith Hodgkins, chair of Tipton Civic Society, said: "It has looked a mess for some time now so to see something done with the site would be good."

"All we would ask is that the mosaic scene is kept intact."

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Quote: JGRT

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Pop star and actor
to meet his fans



Martin Kemp will talk about his life and will answer fans' questions at Stourbridge Town Hall in October

NEW romantic pop star turned actor, TV and radio presenter, Martin Kemp, will be discussing his life and answering fans' questions at Stourbridge Town Hall.

The 54-year-old found fame with his brother Gary in flamboyant pop group Spandau Ballet, before starting with his brother in 1990 hit movie The Krays.

The Londoner went on to play EastEnders villain Steve Owen and five years ago made his debut as a film director with the horror movie Stalker. He was third in Celebrity Big Brother in 2012 and recently co-presented BBC Radio 2's flagship Saturday morning show with Fearnie Cotton during Graham Norton's summer break.

Martin, who has been married to former Wham! backing singer Shirlie Holliman since 1988 and has two adult children, came to Dudley ten years ago to open Russells Hall Hospital's CT scanning suite. He has twice been treated for brain tumours.

Tickets for An Audience with Martin Kemp at Stourbridge Town Hall on Friday, October 28, cost £20.

Tickets are available at www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment or by calling (01384) 812812 (booking fees apply).

Survival of cardiac arrest best in the UK

NOWHERE in the country do people suffering a cardiac arrest have a better chance of surviving to get to hospital than in the West Midlands, new figures show.

The figure, for the month of April, was up on February's rate of 29.7 per cent when it was the best performing across the UK. By comparison the Welsh cardiac arrest survival rate was 12.2 per cent.

Last year West Midlands paramedics kept alive 30.3 per cent of patients over the 12 months, also an increase on the previous year.

Staff attempted to resuscitate 4,040 patients that had a pre-hospital cardiac arrest. More than a quarter of these, 1,179, arrived at hospital and were breathing for themselves - also known as ROSC, or return of spontaneous circulation.

Dr Andy Carson, the trust's medical director, said: "This is a tremendous achievement and cannot be underestimated. If we look back just two years, there has been a 40 per cent increase in the number of ROSCs at hospital. To achieve such an improvement has taken a lot of skill and hard work."

"Part of the reason for the rise is staff have been able to use their advanced skills more often due to a

By Marion Brennan

rise in the number of members of the public prepared to have a go at CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation). And also the increase in the number of public access defibrillators available."

In April it was revealed that up to 300 extra paramedics are being recruited by West Midlands Ambulance Service to boost staffing levels and meet increasing demands.

The service, which has one of the highest ratios of paramedics on the front line in the UK, helps students to learn on the job.

Between 200 and 300 positions are expected to be created. Successful applicants need to complete a 30-month training course.

Currently talks are under way over a possible merger of West Midlands and East Midlands ambulance services, to serve more than 10 million people.

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Cross Country championship medal



Jack Price on the way to victory in the Midlands marathon, which saw him qualify for the 1908 Olympics



No mistaking who this belongs to



Medal for winning marathon trial race

Decades on and medal is found in grandson's loft

IT was won by a Black Country runner more than 110 years ago in one of the first organised marathons in England.

But Jack Price's winning Coventry to West Bromwich trial marathon medal lay undiscovered for decades – a great shame for Halesowen Athletics Club, which he helped set up.

Professional

But that disappointment has turned to delight for athletics fans after the medal was discovered by his grandson Micky Whitehouse as he searched for wedding photographs in his loft of his Halesowen home.

"I couldn't believe it when I came across the medal," said Mr Whitehouse. "I picked it up, read the inscription and thought 'I've found it'."

"It is a real treasure which will be

MEMORY LANE

By Alex Ross

now kept in the family, passed down to the next generation."

The inscription reads 'Presented to J Price, Small Heath Harriers, by Mr HA Butler for winning marathon trial race, May 9 1908. Distance 25 1/2 miles. Time 2hrs 37min 13sec.'

The race, thought to be one of the first of its kind, sealed Price's position in the 1908 Olympic Games in London. He was one of Britain's 12 representatives for the marathon.

Unfortunately, he pulled out after 15 miles.

He turned professional but then served in the First World War in the Royal Garrison Artillery, fighting at The Battle of the Somme.

In the 1920s, he started a club that was a sub-section of Birchfield Harriers for 20 years before it became the Halesowen Athletics & Cycling Club.

His links with it continued until

his death in 1965 and club members turned up in their droves at the plaque unveiling.

Earlier this year a plaque was unveiled for Price, who was born in Shropshire but moved to Halesowen aged 17, in his home town's Somers Square.

And a drive at Halesowen Athletics Club's Manor Abbey Stadium has been named after him.

Mr Whitehouse said: "I have been calling for 25 years to get the plaque. He deserved it."

Proud

"He was an amazing person and someone I am proud to say was part of my family."

Also found by Mr Whitehouse, of Barn Close, was a medal for an international cross country championship in 1906.

Mr Whitehouse said: "He was a remarkable man."

Halesowen Athletics & Cycling Club now plan to make a copy of the marathon medal and put it on display.



Jack Price wearing his 1908 Olympic and International Cross Country badges

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Karl Richards, lead engineer for stability control systems at JLR, said: "Towing is in Land Rover's DNA, and Discovery Sport is no exception. This is the most extreme towing test I've ever done."

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Empty shelves and hearts as BHS shuts



So sad – general manager Catherine Cottis outside the store



Putting on brave face – staff line up at front of store

EMPTY shelves, bargains galore, tearful staff and lots of memories – it was the end of an era at BHS in Wolverhampton as the store closed its doors for the last time after more than half a century.

Hundreds of customers converged on the Dudley Street branch last week to take advantage of deals offering up to 50 per cent off, with further discounts at the tills.

Even the fixtures and fittings were up for grabs as shop rails,

IT was the end of an era as the city store closed its doors for the last time, as MARION BRENNAN reports

shelving and mannequins were included in the massive sell-off.

The last day was marked by ringing tills and a huge wave of nostalgia as customers paid tribute to the store where many of them had shopped since it opened in the early 1960s.

Many of the staff had clocked up decades of service, with the longest serving employee joining 41 years ago.

Tearful store manager Cathe-

rine Cottis, who has been with the company for 29 years, said: "Since they realised no-one was going to save us people have been stripping the shelves of pants, tights, towels, everything. It's been full on."

"It's been hard for the staff, a lot who remember coming here with their parents on a Saturday and having fish and chips in the cafeteria upstairs. We couldn't have got through these last difficult days without the support of our customers who have been fantastic. I just hope they all get jobs because they are the most loyal, hardworking and honest people you could find."

Helpful

She said local stores Boots, Marks & Spencer, Primark and Sainsburys have all been helpful in trying to provide positions for departing staff.

The biggest bargains were to be found on the more expensive items, with £150 chandeliers marked down at £75. Elsewhere tops and swimwear were being sold at £5, nude stilettoes for £15, suit jackets at £34.50, men's shirts for £7.50 and Star Wars trolley bags for a fiver.

More than 11,000 employees – 90 of them at the Wolverhampton store – will have lost their jobs when the last of the chain's 164 shops close on August 20. The



Sign of times – BHS last day of trading, at Dudley Street, Wolverhampton

chain collapsed into administration in April.

Owner Duff & Phelps failed to find a buyer for the business as a going concern and is now looking to sell all the stores off piecemeal.

The closure was announced on the day that a damning report into BHS's ownership under retail billionaire Sir Philip Green was released.

Mother-of-two Elaine Garrington, 57, of Fordhouses, Wolverhampton, said: "It's such a shame, the same as when Woolworths went. These shops were part of Wolverhampton."

"Unfortunately it's a sign of the times with so many people shopping on the internet these days. It's the way the High Street is going."

John Bradley, 62, of Wombourne, said: "Soon we'll all be shopping in hypermarkets and there will be no choice."

His wife Catherine Bradley, 70, added: "It doesn't seem right because BHS moved with the times but still kept its quality."

Gladys Lloyd, 75, of Wheaton Aston, who has a store loyalty card: "I've been coming here all my life. It's very sad."



Sticking together – staff members Val Clayton and Jane Foster

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How to nominate

If you know someone or a group of people who you think deserve to be considered for an award, simply complete the form opposite. For more information on each category visit the website. If you're not sure which one they fit into, don't worry the judges will decide. Nominees should live or work in the Black Country or south Staffordshire, i.e. within the circulation area of the Express & Star.

What happens next?

A panel of judges will decide who goes through to the next round. The finalists, with a write-up about each of them, will appear in the Express & Star and online. Readers can then vote for the person/group in each category who they think deserves to win by cutting out special tokens printed in the paper which will appear from October 6 until November 5. The winner in each category will be the person with the most votes.

The chosen finalists, along with selected guests, will be invited to an awards event being held at Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club on Thursday, January 19, 2017, when the winners will be announced.

Let's put the spotlight on the unsung heroes in our community – we want you to tell us about them!

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If you have any questions please call

the promotions team on 01902 319360.

Closing date for entries is midnight Sunday, August 21 2016. Proposers must be aged 18 or over. All nominees' contact information must be on the official entry form and signed by the proposer (except online). You should tell your nominee that you are putting their name forward. If the nominee is under 16 years old, this form should be signed by their parent/guardian – if nominating online there will be a tick box to confirm you have informed the parent/guardian. All MNA employees and their immediate families are excluded. Sponsors and their immediate families may not enter their own category. Nominees should be living or working in the Black Country or south Staffordshire. If making more than one nomination, please use separate forms. All proposers and nominees must be prepared to take part in any relevant publicity, including photographic coverage, in print and online. Information (excluding contact details) on the person you are nominating will be used in-paper and online. The winner of each category will receive a special prize and there is no cash alternative. If there is a voting tie in any category, a judging panel will choose the outright winner. The Editor's decision is final.

NOMINATION FORM

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Your details

Your name: _____

Address: _____

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Daytime telephone number: _____

Details of who you are nominating

Nominee/group name: _____

Their address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email address: _____

Their daytime telephone number: _____

What is your connection with this person/group?

(e.g. family, neighbour, helper in a crisis etc)

Tell us a bit more about them, such as their hobbies,

interests etc

Your signature _____

If the person(s) you are nominating is under the age of 16 then signature of their parent/guardian

Their name _____

(BLOCK CAPITALS)

Please select one of the following categories:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Ambassador of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Angel of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Champion(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent(s) of the Year |
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See you soon in Tucson?

Hyundai's Tucson family crossover is an attractive contender that might well catapult the Korean brand into credible contention for class honours in this important growing segment.

All bases are covered when it comes to engines with a good selection of both petrols and diesels. At the lower end of the range, there's a choice of a 132PS 1.6 GDi petrol or a 116PS CRDi 1.7 diesel. Move a little higher and you can upgrade to a turbocharged 1.6 GDi with 177PS.

Diesel fans will find a 2.0 CRDi with either 136PS or 185PS. If you want 4WD, then you'll need the turbo petrol or one of the 2.0-litre diesels.

That 4WD system is fine for slippery surfaces but don't expect a vast amount of mud plugging ability.

With an imposing hexagonal grille and sleek Santa Fe-style headlights, the Tucson is a good looking Crossover.

You could never call it dull and the effect is especially nice with the wheels fitted to Premium models.

Climb aboard and the overall fit and finish is excellent. There's a well laid out dashboard, and if you find the interior a little dark, there's the option of a cream lower half to the fascia which does brighten things up significantly.

Mechanically, it's all very conventional which is no bad thing. With 513-litres of seat up boot space available (or slightly less if you go for 4WD), the Tucson comfortably beats its direct rivals. Fold the seats down and this capacity increases to 1503-litres

(or 25-litres less for 4WD). Rear seat space is good, too.

So, what do we have? The tough looks of an SUV, the sensible practicality of a 5-seater mini-MPV and the affordability of a family hatchback. These are the facts behind a Tucson model good enough to attract many new buyers to the Hyundai brand.

It's a very impressive car indeed being nicely built, efficient to run and quite capable in 4WD form of getting everywhere any ordinary family driver might want to go. Then there's this model's competitive pricing and lengthy warranty.

● Why not check out the Hyundai Tucson at Brindley Hyundai at 55 Penn Road in Wolverhampton (WV2 4WW), or Brindley Hyundai on Millenium Park, New Swan Lane in West Bromwich (B70 ONR).

Call Brindley Hyundai Wolverhampton on 01902 690609 or Brindley Hyundai West Bromwich on 0121 525 9131 to arrange your test drive*.

*Test drives subject to terms and conditions

FACT FILE

Hyundai Tucson

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CO2: 119-170g/km

PERFORMANCE: (1.6 GDi 132PS) 0-62 11.5s/max speed 113mph

ECONOMY: (1.6 GDi 132PS) Combined - 44.8 mpg

SAFETY: Twin front, side and curtain airbag/ABS with EBD, ESP



The award winning i10 now even more affordable

**ORDER YOUR
NEW 66 PLATE NOW**

i10 SE 1.0 6.9% APR
REPRESENTATIVE

Personal Contract Purchase finance example

Monthly payments of	£149.36
Customer deposit	£149.00
Hyundai UK deposit contribution	£500
On the road price	£8,995.00
Interest charges	£1,441.62
Total amount of credit	£8,346.00
Total amount payable	£10,436.62
Optional final payment	£3,514.50
Duration of agreement (months)	43
Representative APR %	6.9%
Interest rate % (fixed)	3.56%
Annual mileage	6,000
Excess mileage charge per mile	14.9p



Test drive the possibilities

i10 RRP £10,075
NOW £8,995 + Metallic Paint
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BRINDLEY HYUNDAI

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Tel. 0121 695 9971
www.brindleyhyundai-westbromwich.co.uk



Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for i10 range: Urban 35.3 (8.0) - 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1) - 76.3 (3.7), Combined 45.6 (6.2) - 65.7 (4.3), CO₂ Emissions 142 - 98 g/km.

Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

On the road (OTR) prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable, VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK, between 1st July and 30th September 2016, inclusive. 5 Year Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask us.

W. Brindley (Garages) Limited trading as Brindley Hyundai are a credit broker (not a lender) for the purposes of this financial promotion and can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction.

Viva economy, Astra style

Priced from £8,595, the Vauxhall Viva is a citycar that relies on substance to make sales. When it comes to the smallest cars, the most practical models make the biggest numbers and this 1.0-litre five-door hatch looks to have all the right objective figures sewn up.

A 75PS ECOTEC petrol engine drives the front wheels via a five-speed manual gearbox and the suspension and steering has been optimised for comfort on the sort of pock-marked streets that typify most British cities. Like its bigger brother, the ADAM, the Viva gets a City mode that lightens the steering even further to help take the effort out of parking.

The styling is neat and assured, with none of the overtly cutesy flourishes that

make certain small cars very gender specific. The Viva could well appeal to lads as well as lasses, with its purposeful front end, signature Z-slash that runs through the door handles in the side swage line, plus some neat alloy wheel designs.

The 1.0-litre engine makes some decent economy figures, with the ecoFLEX model recording 65.7mpg on the combined fuel economy cycle. Even if you don't go for that version, you'll still see 62.8mpg. Around town, that figure drops to 52.3mpg in the ecoFLEX and 50.4mpg in non-ecoFLEX branded cars. Emissions range between 99 and 104g/km so choose carefully if you want to minimise your bills.

Need something larger? Let's look at Vauxhall's latest Astra. Available from £15,445 the seventh generation version of Vauxhall's Astra family hatch manages to be better equipped, more efficient and more spacious than its predecessor, while in some cases actually costing less than it did before. Think that sounds promising? Then like us, you might think that this could be the toughest rival yet to its competitors.

You'll know at first glance that this is a Vauxhall thanks to the latest take on the corporate grille, now flowing into headlights which come with the option of full LED technology. There's also the familiar blade graphic stamped into the side of the body and rear lights that now spread into the tailgate like the smaller Corsa.

Engine-wise, though the 100PS 1.4-litre petrol unit remains from the previous range, much else is new. There's the 105PS 1.0-litre three cylinder turbo unit borrowed from the Corsa, plus 125PS and 150PS versions of a new direct injection 1.4-litre turbo powerplant too, plus a 1.6-litre 200PS version



The styling is neat and assured with none of the overtly cutsey flourishes that make certain small cars very gender specific

of this engine further up the range. Diesel buyers get 110PS, 136PS and 160PS 1.6-litre CDTi options. Go for the 1.6 litre CDTi 110PS diesel ecoFLEX model and you'll get a car capable of 91.1mpg on the combined cycle while emitting only 82g/km of CO₂.

Prices start from just over £15,000 and range up to around £23,000 and there's the usual mainstream bodystyle choice of five-door hatch and estate. The MK6 model-based GTC coupe continues on in its older form. With the latest generation

hatch and estate, there are five main trim levels – Design, Tech Line, Energy, SRI and Elite. Best of all, it's mainly British, with hatch and estate models built at Ellesmere Port near Liverpool. That reason alone might be enough to give this car a place on your family hatchback shortlist. Fortunately for Vauxhall, there are also many others.

● You'll find the economical Viva and the stylish seventh generation Vauxhall Astra at T. Wall Vauxhall, High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford DY6 8XB. Call (01384) 288 333 for more details.



3 GREAT **NU 66 REG** OFFERS

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5.0% APR
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£169.20 PER MONTH
4.0% APR
REPRESENTATIVE

VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2i ENERGISED 3dr



£59 DEPOSIT
£139.04 PER MONTH
4.0% APR
REPRESENTATIVE

PERSONAL CONTRACT PURCHASE REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE*

47 monthly payments of	£149.06	Credit Arrangement Fee	
On the Road Cash Price	£13,885.00	(Usually payable in addition to the first monthly payment)	£149.00
Deposit (Finance Deposit Allowance of £1,500 +		Optional Final Monthly Payment	£4,899.00
Part Exchange Allowance of £1,635 + Cash deposit of £79)	£3,214.00	Fixed Rate of Interest	£3.93% p.a.
Amount of Credit	£10,671.00	Duration of agreement	48 Months
Interest Charges	£1,233.82	Total Amount Payable	£15,416.82
Arrangement Fee		Excess Mileage Charge	£0.09
(Usually payable in addition to the first monthly payment)	£149.00	Based on an Annual Mileage of	5,000
		Representative APR	5.0%

PERSONAL CONTRACT PURCHASE REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE*

47 monthly payments of	£169.20	Fixed Rate of Interest	£3.93% p.a.
On the Road Cash Price	£17,900.00	Duration of agreement	48 Months
Deposit (Finance Deposit Allowance of £3,000 +		Total Amount Payable	£19,261.40
Part Exchange Allowance of £2,820 + Cash deposit of £199)	£6,019.00	Excess Mileage Charge	£0.09
Amount of Credit	£11,881.00	Based on an Annual Mileage of	5,000
Interest Charges	£1,361.40	Representative APR	4.0%
Optional Final Monthly Payment	£5,290.00		

*Finance provided by GMAC UK plc, P.O. Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance applicants must be 18 or over. Option 1 - Pay final payment & keep the car. Option 2 - Return the car. Option 3 - Trade in against a new vehicle. All offers subject to availability, terms and conditions. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

PERSONAL CONTRACT PURCHASE REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE*

47 monthly payments of	£139.04	Fixed Rate of Interest	£3.93% p.a.
On the Road Cash Price	£13,505.00	Duration of agreement	48 Months
Deposit (Finance Deposit Allowance of £1,700 +		Total Amount Payable	£14,636.88
Part Exchange Allowance of £1,904 + Cash deposit of £59)	£3,663.00	Excess Mileage Charge	£0.09
Amount of Credit	£9,842.00	Based on an Annual Mileage of	5,000
Interest Charges	£1,131.88	Representative APR	4.0%
Optional Final Monthly Payment	£4,439.00		

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

Halesowen Motor House
Dudley Rd, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 3NH
0121 503 0001 www.halesowenmotorhouse.co.uk

T Wall Garages
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01384 288333 www.twall.co.uk

Stourbridge Motor House
High Street, Amblecote, Nr. Stourbridge DY8 4DG
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Full experience at dealer

Startin Honda brings Honda to Stourbridge and Halesowen.

Having recently adopted the Halesowen Honda area Startin Honda brings eighteen years' Honda Main Dealership experience in Worcester to its dealership on the Stourbridge Road in Lye.



The Startin name should already be familiar to local residents, having been active in the area since 1840, when it was originally better known for selling 'coach build' horse carts! However, locals will be happy to know that, although the models on display still have four wheels, they've gone through some major upgrades!

Whether you're looking for a new or used Honda car, you want to book a MOT or service, or you'd just like some more information about the Honda product range, Startin Honda are here to help. Our friendly sales team will share all their Honda knowledge and our highly trained technicians will keep your car running at its best.

All models in the Honda range are available for test drives and, with a range of finance deals to suit every requirement, you are sure to find the right deal for you. The friendly and experienced Startin Honda sales team will help guide you through the many model options and alternatives that are available. There are often special offers on particular models – pop in to discuss or visit the website www.startingroup.co.uk/honda

Master

For the existing Honda owner in the area you will be pleased to know that we employ a Honda master technician and front line favourite Liz Cartwright who has been working with Honda customers in the area for a long time. Our service department is staffed by Honda-trained technicians who specialise in maintenance, service and MOTs for your Honda. We can also supply you with extended warranty, roadside assistance, service reminders, bodywork repairs and genuine Honda accessories.

Startin Honda is a proud Motability partner with dedicated Motability specialists who will listen to your requirements and find the best Motability Honda to suit your needs and budget, and deal with the aftersales side too. Business users are also welcome and offered competitive contract hire terms whether for a single vehicle or a fleet of company cars for your staff. Contact our sales team to discuss your requirements.

We also stock a wide range of Honda Approved used cars both in Stourbridge and at our sister site in Worcester



– you can call in to see what takes your fancy, or call us on 01384 422 488 or search online at www.startingroup.co.uk/honda to see if we have the model you are looking for. Should you wish to see a car that is currently at Worcester, we can of course arrange for you to test drive it at our Stourbridge site. Approved used cars are also available with finance.

As part of its commitment to the community, Startin Honda Stourbridge is proud to have undertaken a number of activities in the area, including involvement in the Stour-

bridge Carnival, sponsorship of the annual Black Country Festival and sponsoring the Lye Town Football Club.

"We are delighted to bring the full Startin Group Honda experience and offers to Stourbridge. Our strong family values, high standard of service and commitment to customer care will no doubt benefit all of our customers and we look forward to welcoming faces old and new," says Timothy Freeman, dealer principal. "We operate with a friendly, relaxed atmosphere so you'll feel right at home, and with fresh coffee and biscuits, we're sure you'll want to come and visit us soon."

Big News

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Models Shown: CR-V SE 1.6 i-DTEC 2WD Manual in Passion Red Pearl, Civic 1.4 i-VTEC Manual in Brilliant Sporty Blue Metallic, Jazz SE 1.3 i-VTEC Manual in Sunset Orange II and HR-V SE NAVI 1.6 i-DTEC Manual in White Orchid Pearl. **Fuel consumption figures for the Honda range in mpg (l/100km):** Urban Cycle 23.2 – 70.6 (12.2 – 4.0), Extra Urban 40.4 – 85.6 (7.0 – 3.3), Combined 32.5 – 78.5 (8.7 – 3.6). CO₂ emissions 201 – 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated.

More ponies in Fiesta Zetec

You might well have seen the 80, 100 and 125PS versions of the Ecoboost 1.0-litre engines before, but Ford's engineers have tweaked the powerplant to offer up a few more ponies.

Not only does the 140PS output make these Fiestas the most powerful 1.0-litre volume production cars ever but you also get more power per litre than in a Bugatti Veyron or a Lamborghini Aventador.

Topping

This results in some fairly crisp acceleration figures, the lightweight powerplant helping the Fiesta to 62mph in just nine seconds and topping out at 125mph.

In fact, this engine delivers more than twice the specific output per litre than its predecessor – the 1.6-litre 100PS engine that powered the Fiesta S just 10 years ago.

As the name suggests the Zetec-S Red and Black Edition versions of the Fiesta come in very specific colour schemes. These two-tone models are available in Race Red, complemented by Panther Black roof and detailing; or Panther Black, with Race Red roof and detailing.

This Fiesta may still be a small car but these days, it thinks big in almost every

This engine delivers more than twice the specific output per litre than its predecessor – the 1.6 litre 100PS

way, starting with styling designed to make more of a statement in the supermini segment.

Variations on the Fiesta theme may come and go but before driving any version of Ford's definitive supermini, there's one thing you almost always know for certain: that it'll be a great steer.

There's a deftness to the way this car responds, an agility to the way it nips around the bends that no other small car can quite match.

Beneath the smarter styling also lies some clever user-friendly technology too – and cabin quality that'll make down-sizing into one of these less of a chore. This is how you right a best seller.

One of the benefits of the three-cylinder Ecoboost engine is that it's light and small, so it's mounted low in the car and your

steering wheel is consequently turning a lot of fresh air rather than a hefty lump of iron under the bonnet.

Yes, you're limited on colour and the black car with the red contrasts is probably going to suit the more extrovert buyers but it's hard to think of anything more fun for fifteen grand.

● T. Wall Ford on the High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford DY6 8XB is where you'll find the Ford Fiesta 1.0 Zetec-S Black and Red Editions.

Call (01384) 282 900 and expect a warm response from the sales team.

FACT FILE

Ford Fiesta 1.0 Zetec-S Black and Red Editions

PRICES: from £14,995

INSURANCE: tba

CO2: 105g/km

PERFORMANCE: 0-62 9s / top speed 125mph

ECONOMY: (combined) 62.8mpg

SAFETY: Electronic stability control, ABS with brake assist, seven airbags



STANDOUT IN RED & BLACK

**FORD FIESTA ZETEC S
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T Wall Ford

High Street, Pensnett
Kingswinford, DY6 8XB
Tel. 01384 288333
www.twallford.co.uk

Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Ford Fiesta 1.0L EcoBoost (140PS): urban 50.4 (5.6), extra urban 72.4 (3.9), combined 62.8 (4.5). Official CO₂ emissions 104g/km. The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results (EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

Hyundai i10 is on the prize

Hyundai is looking for its i10 city car to step up from being merely branded good value for money to being considered best in class – or thereabouts. With smart styling, plenty of space inside, strong equipment levels and a focus on refinement, it's in with a genuine shot.

It's a bigger car than its predecessor, adding 80mm to the length and 65mm to the width. It sits 50mm lower too, helping it avoid the Noddy-car look of many city cars.

The arched sill finisher on the flanks is an idea that looks to have been cribbed from Renault but works extremely well in giving the sides some shape and depth. The big front air dam looks surprisingly sporty, giving the i10 a much more dynamic look than many deliberately cutesy small cars. Inside, the i10 offers best-in-class legroom and cargo capacity.

Front and rear passengers benefit from combined legroom of 1,890mm, while boot capacity has been boosted by more than 10 per cent to 252 litres with all seats in place. By contrast, a Skoda Citigo offers 251 litres, so Hyundai just squeaks in above the class benchmark. Buyers choose between 66PS 1.0-litre or 87PS 1.2-litre petrol engines.

Hyundai i10 might be an inexpensive car but it's also a hugely significant one

The latest model has targeted improving refinement as a key priority. The suspension has been given a thorough working over to improve ride quality and reduce noise. The longer wheelbase and better quality relocated dampers will help here, improving body control over road imperfections.

The Hyundai i10 might be an inexpensive car, but it's also a hugely significant one. When conditions are tough, buyers increasingly look to limit their expenditure and often downsize their automotive choices.

There's certainly more temptation to do so now that models of this kind offer the sort of fit, finish, refinement and equipment that we used to expect in a good family hatch. The i10 is a good example of this trend, also offering tidy styling, plenty of space inside and low running costs.

Factor in a five year/unlimited mileage

warranty arrangement and the i10 looks able to compete with the class best, even when it's pitched at much the same price as them. That's a clear statement of intent from Hyundai.

It's evidence of real confidence in their product and the Koreans are bullish about its prospects. After a first look, it appears their optimism may be well-founded.

● All Electric Hyundai at 3, Churchfields, Kidderminster DY10 2JL is where you can find the remarkable Hyundai i10 city car. Why not call the sales team on (01562) 539146 to arrange your test drive?

FACT FILE

Hyundai i10

PRICES: £8,995-£13,045

INSURANCE: 1-4A

CO2: 98-142g/km

PERFORMANCE: [1.2] Max Speed 105mph / 0-60mph 12.2s

ECONOMY: [1.2] 61.4mpg

SAFETY: twin front, side and curtain airbags, ABS, stability control



ORDER YOUR NU 66 REG

HYUNDAI i20 1.2
Hatchback SE 5DR

£ 10,995

£ 172.56 PER MONTH

DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION

£ 500



HYUNDAI i10 1.0
Hatchback SE 5DR

£ 8,499

£ 136.43 PER MONTH

DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION

£ 500



TERMS OF AGREEMENT	42 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	TOTAL CHARGE FOR CREDIT	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	AMOUNT OF CREDIT
43 MONTHS	OF £ 172.56	£ 1,626.02	£ 12,621.02	£ 9,496.00
CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	CASH PRICE OF VEHICLE	OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION	INTEREST RATE
£ 999.00	£ 10,995.00	£ 3,874.50	£ 500	3.56%

TERMS OF AGREEMENT	42 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	TOTAL CHARGE FOR CREDIT	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	AMOUNT OF CREDIT
43 MONTHS	OF £ 136.43	£ 1,381.56	£ 9,880.56	£ 7,863.00
CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	CASH PRICE OF VEHICLE	OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION	INTEREST RATE
£ 136.00	£ 8,499.00	£ 3,514.50	£ 500	3.56%

Selected Annual Mileage 6000. Excess mileage will be charged at the rate of 14.9 pence per mile (plus VAT) for the First 5000 miles and at twice that rate thereafter. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicant must be 18 or over. Guarantees / indemnities may be required. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are three options (i) Part Exchange the service. Where equity is available (ii) Pay the GFV (Guaranteed Future Value) to own the service or (iii) return the service. Further charges may be made subject to condition of the service. Hyundai Capital UK Ltd T/A Hyundai Motor Finance RH1 1SR. All images used are for illustrative purposes only.

All Electric Hyundai

3 Churchfields, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY10 2JL

01562 549938

www.allelectric.co.uk/hyundai

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Honda's HR-V is back and improved

The second generation Honda HR-V aims to stake a strong claim for the Japanese brand in the growing compact crossover market. This time round, it's more spacious and better equipped to take on segment leaders.

Buyers choose from either a 1.5 petrol unit or a 1.6 diesel, both sending drive to the front wheels. It looks good and deserves to do well.

Honda has ditched any pretence that this HR-V is a go-anywhere vehicle, offering it solely in front-wheel drive guise.

There's a choice of petrol or diesel power, the former being a 130PS 1.5 litre i-VTEC petrol, with the black pump-fuelled variant getting a 120PS 1.6 i-DTEC unit. Each drives through a six-speed manual transmission, although the petrol powerplant can be optioned with a CVT automatic, with a paddle-shift on some trims.

The HR-V features a low centre of gravity, with the driver's hip point more akin to a conventional hatch than an SUV.

The body is extremely rigid due to a high percentage of high-tensile steel, and this in turn helps isolate the suspension to do its job properly. Honda has concentrated on refinement, optimising aerodynamics to reduce wind noise at speed.

The HR-V also employs a highly efficient acoustic insulation package. Sound absorption measures in the inner wheel arches, floor carpet and underfloor cover combine to reduce cabin noise levels.

Stance

Honda reckons the MK2 model HR-V combines the personality of a coupe with the solid stance of an SUV and they're not too far wrong.

The design is neat and interesting, with hidden rear door handles, deeply sculpted lower body panels and a CR-V-style front grille, headlamps and pointed taper at the rear side window line.

The cabin features decent quality materials, with a soft-touch dash top accented with brushed chrome and piano black inlays.

Unlike its predecessor, this HR-Vs quite spacious inside and there's room to accommodate Hondas Magic Seat system.

As well as splitting 60/40, the rear bench seat backs can fold forward as the seat base lowers to create a long, flat floor. The front and rear passenger seat backs can also fold forward to a horizontal position to accommodate longer items.

Styling

The boot holds 453-litres with the rear seats in use, and 1,026-litres to the window line with the rear seats folded away.

The Honda HR-V's styling is neat and despite the sloping roofline, practicality is well up to par.

It's certainly a good deal more affordable and edgier than a CR-V. Of course, Honda has been here before with the HR-V but has learned lessons from that first generation model.

This time round, the brand has appreciated the need for real substance behind the style.

With this in place, the HR-V will continue to appeal even if something fresher and more fashionable comes along. Job done.

● You can view and test drive* Honda's HR-V at Brindley Honda in Cannock, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton.

Brindley Honda, Walsall Road, Cannock WS11 0JP. Tel: 01543 406601

Brindley Honda, Millennium Park, Swan Lane, West Bromwich B70 0NR. Tel: 0121 629 0982

Brindley Honda, West Street, Wolverhampton WV10 6HT Tel: 01902 690593

*With test drives terms and conditions apply

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Metallic option £500

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- 17" alloys
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- Honda Connect with Garmin® satellite navigation



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OUR PRICE £29,999

SAVE £5,261

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- Bluetooth®
- City Brake Active System
- 18" alloys
- cruise control
- front & rear parking sensors
- rear parking camera
- leather upholstery
- panoramic glass roof
- privacy glass
- smart keyless entry & start
- Honda Connect with Garmin® satellite navigation



Civic 1.8 SR 5dr
OUR PRICE £18,499

SAVE £4,661
Metallic option £500

- climate control dual auto (a/c)
- Bluetooth®
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- rear parking camera
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- glass roof
- privacy glass
- Honda Connect with Garmin® satellite navigation

All cars pre reg 16 plate with balance of manufacturer's warranty.

Offer available only while stocks last.

These offers supersede any previous offers. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

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West Bromwich B70 0NR
0121 629 0990

www.brindley.co.uk

Brindley Wolverhampton
West Street, off Stafford Road
Wolverhampton WV10 6HT
01902 690601

Back to basics in MX-5

Lighter, sharper and better engineered than the car it replaced, this fourth-generation Mazda MX-5 does everything right. It's offered with a 1.5 or 2.0-litre petrol engine and what it lacks in outright power it more than makes up in agility and tactility.

This rejection of a more is better philosophy is a bit of a running theme throughout this MX-5. The car's offered with either a 1.5-litre 131PS engine or a 2.0-litre 160PS unit. Mazda's chassis engineers will steer you to the 1.5-litre powerplant as they feel it's the purest specification for the MX-5 and also the lightest, tipping the scales at around the tonne. That makes this the lightest MX-5 since the original first generation car of the Nineties.

This fourth generation design conforms to five key criteria that Mazda claim define the MX-5 - rear drive with a front-mid engine layout, 50/50 weight distribution and an eagerness to change direction, plus a low kerb weight and an affordable price. All models get six-speed manual gearboxes.

The MX-5 is about agility and tactility. Its new engines are smaller which allows them to be tucked down and back in the car. That means they can be set 13mm lower and 15mm further back than on the previous car.

Weight has been pared back by using aluminium for the bonnet, boot and front wings, while the soft top hood is also lighter, improving the centre of gravity.

The shape of the MX-5 hasn't changed radically from generation to generation. This one's no exception, but there's a bit more aggression about the detailing. See one in the metal and you'll be amazed at

just how tiny it is. It's fully 105mm shorter in overall length than its predecessor, despite the wheelbase only being 15mm less. It also stands 20mm lower and 10mm wider.

Weight is the enemy. Excess weight dulls a car's responses, making it harder to turn, stop and accelerate, ensuring that it drinks more fuel and puts greater stresses on virtually every moving part, parts which then have to be made heavier to cope. The Mazda MX-5 reverses that cycle, stripping weight off which in turn allows it to pare more weight back with other simple lightweight components. It's a brilliant piece of engineering.

It also goes to show that you can probably have more fun with 1.5 litres worth of MX-5 than you can with some supercars. No, that's not hyperbole. Try it and you'll see. If you measure your cars in terms of smiles per mile, the MX-5 has to be right near the top of your shortlist.

● See the magnificent new Mazda MX-5 at Brindley Mazda, West Street, Wolverhampton WV10 6HT. Call (01902) 904509 to arrange your test drive*.

*Test drives subject to terms and conditions

FACT FILE

Mazda MX-5 range

PRICES: £18,495 - £24,295

INSURANCE: 25-29

CO2: 139-161g/km

PERFORMANCE: [1.5] 0-62mph

8.3s / top speed 127mph

ECONOMY: [2.0] (combined) 40.9 mpg

SAFETY: twin front and side airbags, stability control, ABS brakes



MAKE THIS SUMMER ICONIC.

ALL-NEW *MAZDA MX-5 ICON*

0% APR**

WITH A 50% DEPOSIT

- front airdam skirt
- wing mirrors
- rear spoiler
- unique side graphics
- 16" gunmetal alloy wheels
- Soul Red highlights
- integrated navigation
- heated leather seats
- rear parking sensors
- automatic lights and wipers
- Meteor Grey Mica or Crystal White Pearlescent

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda MX-5 range: Urban 30.4 (9.3) - 35.8 (7.8). Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5) - 57.6 (4.9). Combined 40.9 (6.9) - 47.1 (6.0). CO₂ emissions (g/km) 161 - 139.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results.

Retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating dealers only on vehicles registered between 01.07.16 and 30.09.16. T&C apply. **0% APR Mazda Conditional Sale available on all all-new Mazda MX-5 models. Finance subject to status, 18s or over. Guarantee may be required. Mazda Financial Services RHI 1SR. Model shown: all-new Mazda MX-5 Icon, OTR from £20,995 in Crystal White Pearlescent paint. OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, first registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. Test drives subject to applicant status and availability. Details correct at time of going to print. Not available in conjunction with any other offer unless specified.

Brindley Garages Group trading as Brindley Mazda is a credit broker not a lender for this financial promotion. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction.

Numbers looking good

The Citroën C1 used to be a smart pick if you were after a cheap and cheerful citycar. The latest version isn't content with being a budget option; it's tilting at the class lead. With better economy, a much better finish and a classier look and feel, it's in with a shot.

All Electric Citroën will offer you the choice of a two petrol engines: a VTi 68, available with either a 5-speed manual or a 5-speed clutchless Efficient Tronic Gearbox (ETG), or in PureTech 1.2-litre VTi 82 guise with a 5-speed manual transmission. The car has been designed to improve agility and manoeuvrability in town, with a turning circle of just 4.8 metres. There's three or five doors, two different engines, three trim levels, a choice of manual or automatic transmissions and beyond that the personalisation options. If you want your citycar

just so, without having to compromise, the C1 is going to be the first place you go.

Even the most powerful 82bhp engine will manage to squeeze 65 miles out of a gallon of 95RON, emitting just 99g/km of CO2, which is extremely good going considering that this new 1.2-litre model takes just 11 seconds to reach 62mph from rest. So you're effectively getting a faster, more agile car that costs no more to run. We call that a major win.

Priced from £8,495 the C1 is going to continue to appeal to those who just want cheap wheels and it's still going to cost a pittance to run. However, it's got more in its armoury than just low running costs now. Its rivals need to keep a very watchful eye on how this plays out.

The Citroën C4 Cactus looks unlike any other vehicle on the roads thanks to its Airbump side cladding and a whole host of other bold details. The body marries smooth curves with bold, planar surfaces, indented with slick details like those Airbumps, the



The Citroën C4 Cactus looks unlike any other vehicle on the roads thanks to its Airbump side cladding

slot-like daytime running lights and the arc-like roof rails.

The cabin has had lots of design effort put in it. Everything feels soft and relaxing, with squidgy seats and a simplified dash with a touch screen to house most minor controls. In an industry first, the passenger airbag is housed in the roof, freeing up the dash area to feel lighter and airier. The front seat is bench-like but only seats two and cost and weight has been taken out of the rear with the simple, non-split rear seat and the basic front-hinged rear windows.

The C4 Cactus is offered with four efficient powertrains, three petrol – PureTech 75, PureTech 82 and PureTech 110 – and a BlueHDI 100 diesel variant. There is even a VED-exempt petrol version – the PureTech 82'S ETG emitting just 98g/km. If you want a low-mileage urban scooter that looks great and is easy to drive, the C4 Cactus answers the call.

● See these cars at All Electric Citroën, 3, Churchfields, Kidderminster DY10 2JL. Call the sales team on (01562) 535167 for more information.

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CRÉATIVE TECHNOLOGIE



Images for illustration purposes only. Prices correct at time of print.

Clever move with Kia Niro

Kia needed a small Juke-style compact Crossover model. And it also wanted a hybrid able to appeal to buyers who can't quite stretch to a Toyota Prius. The Niro smartly packages up both requirements into one potentially appealing product.

Under the bonnet lies a 1.6-litre petrol/electric hybrid powerplant of the non-plug-in variety.

The petrol unit puts out 102bhp and that's bolstered by a 42bhp electric motor mounted on the transmission and the whole package is driven by a 6-speed CVT auto gearbox. As you'd expect from a hybrid, regenerative braking is used to send power back to the battery, but Kia says it's paid special attention to brake feel, reducing the grabby nature that you get from the brakes in other hybrids.

The transmission is the latest version of Kia's 6DCT 'box, re-engineered specifically for use with the Niro's advanced hybrid powertrain, delivering a more direct and immediate response – and a more entertaining drive – than a traditional continuously-variable transmission would. The Niro's 6DCT is able to shift gears automatically, while keener drivers can pull the gear lever towards them to put the car into Manual Sports mode and allow manual shifting.

A series of measures has been adopted to ensure low levels of noise, vibration and harshness. These include specially-designed asymmetric engine mounts to manage powertrain movements at each point in the front subframe, high density under-bonnet insulation and a sound-deadening acoustic shield with a special support structure to improve the sound of the engine accelerating across the most used range of engine speeds.

The Niro is 4,355mm in length, 1,800mm wide and 1,535mm tall, making it smaller overall than the brand's larger Sportage Crossover, though occupying a larger footprint than the cee'd hatchback. While there's nothing particularly exciting about the shape it's likely to chime with buyers in the compact Crossover segment and has a relatively sleek 0.29Cd drag factor.

The Niro's styling is certainly a break away from more sensible Prius-style hybrid models while inside the cabin has been designed to give an impression of space and modernity, with a wide dashboard and defined horizontal lines. The Niro follows the most recent Kia models in offering high quality, soft-touch materials throughout the interior. There's decent boot capacity too – 421-litres.

Matching hybrid power with Crossover trendiness was always going to make an appealing combination and the Niro delivers exactly that.

We're a little disappointed that there are

no more affordable conventionally-engined versions but that apart, we like the look of what's on offer here.

Not everyone wants the noise, smell and extra expense of a diesel engine. Well if you don't, then here's a way of getting diesel economy with petrol convenience in a fashionable-looking package.

Be sure to check out the new Kia Niro at Brindley Kia.

● Brindley Kia, 55 Penn Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands WV2 4WW. Tel: 01902 542909

● Brindley Kia, 85 New Road, Tipton, West Bromwich, West Midlands DY4 7BX. Tel: 0121 462 2944



FACT FILE

Kia Niro

PRICES: £20,000 [est]

INSURANCE: TBC

CO2: 89g/km

PERFORMANCE: TBC

ECONOMY: (combined) 73.6mpg [est]

SAFETY: ESP, twin front, side and curtain airbags, ABS with EBA and EBD



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Fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) for the All-New Kia Niro range: Urban 64.2 (4.4) – 74.3 (3.8), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5) – 72.4 (3.9), Combined 64.2 (4.4) – 74.3 (3.8), CO₂ 101 – 88g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Model shown: All-New Kia Niro 'First Edition' 1.6 GDI 1.56kWh lithium-ion 139bhp 6-speed auto DCT at £26,955. *Care-3 is the Kia Servicing Package that covers recommended manufacturers servicing. T&Cs apply. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For full terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk.

Three credible MG models

MG now has three highly credible models in its range since the brand was re-introduced to the British market in 2007. Let's find out more.

MG3

Now cleaner and smarter than before, the MG3 is a supermini you probably won't have considered.

Yet it's fun to drive, practical to own and vastly more affordable than the conventional choices in this segment.

If you don't need class-leading efficiency and you're prepared to forgive a few rough edges in return for the big savings on offer, then it could rank as a very clever choice.

Prices start at under £8,500, getting you this supermini-sized car for less than the kind of money you'd pay for a little citycar. All models get signature front LED lights and a hill holder clutch as standard, with all but the entry model featuring a high quality DAB audio system.

Safety-wise, there are six airbags, electronic stability control, corner brake control and traction control.

MG6

The much-improved MG6 will appeal to those who like a British-built product that's good to drive, inexpensive, economical and spacious.

The styling's been refreshed, it's more economical, it's quicker, it's sharper through corners and there's a stack more kit included.

In other words, it's upped its game right across the board.

There are no petrol engines this time

round, just a much improved version of the brand's 1.9-litre DTi diesel. This engine has been developed (and is assembled) at Longbridge from a kit of parts built in China and it's a gutsy unit.

It's badged DTi-Tech, displaces 1849cc and features common rail fuelling and a variable-rate turbocharger while packing 150PS. Torque? You get a decent 350Nm at just 1,800rpm and the six-speed manual gearbox makes keeping on top of it, fairly un-troublesome.

A hefty 75kg has been taken out of the vehicle in creation of this version and the result is that 0.5 seconds has been shaved off the sprint to 62mph, the MG6 now recording a brisk 8.4 second time.

MG GS

Crossovers now come in all shapes and sizes but if you want one capable of taking the family – something Qashqai-sized – then typically, you're looking at having to find around £20,000 to get it new.

If any brand could substantially reduce the asking fee necessary to get one of these kinds of cars in your driveway, they'd have a strong proposition to offer.

Well MG has done just that with the recently launched GS model, arguably its most credible car yet. Prices start from around £15,000.

Spec up a rival to this level and you'd be paying thousands more.

Its swoopy looks of the GS are rather appealing, and it's quite practical too, the boot being bigger than in several rivals.

To start with, only one engine is on offer here, a 1.5-litre turbo petrol unit with 164bhp – a little more power than you might expect from a car at this price point, especially as



You most certainly won't be disappointed by what it offers

the poke comes in concert with a useful 250Nm of torque.

Small to medium caravans and trailers of up to 1,750kg in weight should be no problem. As for running costs, this GS manages 46.3mpg on the combined cycle and 139g/km.

In summary, approach the GS with ex-

pectations in line with the prices being asked and you most certainly won't be disappointed by what it offers.

● See the impressive MG range at Summit Garage (Dudley) Limited, 413-415 Himley Road, Lower Gornal, Dudley DY3 2RA. Telephone (01384) 259555 for more information.





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Model shown is MG GS Exclusive with Sunset Orange paint and black A-post decal at £19,989. *On the road price of £14,995 applies to the MG GS Explore with no optional extras. On the road (OTR) prices include VAT where applicable, vehicle first registration fee, delivery number plates and 12 months' Vehicle Excise Duty. From prices exclude optional metallic paint, accessories and graphics packs. Fuel consumption values shown are based on official EU test figures and are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not be representative of actual driving results.

† Conditional Sale. 0% APR available on all MG GS models until 30 September 2016. A minimum deposit of 20% of the cash OTR price applies. Finance by MG Financial Services, a trading style of GMAC UK plc. PO Box 6666, Cardiff CF15 7YT. Finance subject to status. Availability and terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be aged 18 or over. Offer available at participating dealers. Please see your local dealer or visit www.mg.co.uk/offers for details.

Summit Garage (Dudley) Ltd trading as Summit Garage

Summit Garage

Himley Road Gornal Wood Dudley West Midlands DY3 2RA
01384 259555 www.summitgarage.co.uk

Fabulous Ford features

The Ford Focus didn't feel as if it needed to much remedial work done, but the latest updates give it a better-looking face, a more user-friendly interior, more efficient engines and some suspension tweaks that aim to remind us what made the Focus great in the first place.

The engine range has also been revised. The Focus petrol engine line-up now largely hinges around an efficient 1.5-litre EcoBoost unit available in either 150 or 180PS outputs. Buyers can though, continue to opt for the 1.0-litre EcoBoost petrol powerplant in 100 and 120PS guises that was chosen by a third of customers in the pre-facelift model – and a sub-100g/km version has also been developed. Diesel drivers are catered for with a 1.5-litre TDCi powerplant available in 95 or 120PS outputs. The hot ST version should build on the brilliance of its junior sibling, the livewire Fiesta ST.

The styling updates look really good, especially the front end which wears that Aston Martin lookalike front grille so much more elegantly than the somewhat pan-faced Fiesta. The interior has also been given a serious once-over. The fascia design is more intuitive, that button-strewn centre stack and steering wheel being tidied up considerably. Many of the controls are now marshalled by the SYNC 2 high-resolution, 8-inch colour touch screen system. The Focus is back at the very top of its game!

Ford has completed its SUV line-up with a larger model, the Edge, a car that takes the brand back into the luxury part of this segment.

With the Edge model offered here there's a choice of 180PS 2.0-litre TDCi diesel engine with six-speed manual transmission, or a 210PS bi-turbo 2.0 litre TDCi diesel with a six-speed PowerShift automatic gearbox. It features Ford's Intelligent All-Wheel Drive (AWD) technology as standard, delivering a seamless transition between front-wheel drive and all-wheel drive performance to provide a more secure footing on the road especially in slippery conditions.

The Edge's exterior is sharp and attractive, while inside, the interior has been designed with high-quality materials throughout, including soft-touch trims on the dashboard and centre console. Overall then, this is the most competitive large SUV that the Blue Oval brand has yet brought us. We can already recommend this car as a promising prospect.

Featuring vehicles with sporty styling inspired by Ford Performance and offering a range of powerful and efficient EcoBoost petrol and TDCi diesel powertrains, Ford now offers today announced a new ST-Line model range for Europe. ST-Line launches with the Fiesta ST-Line – priced from £15,645



Ford has completed its SUV line-up with a larger model, the Edge, a car that takes the brand back into the luxury part of this segment

– and Focus ST-Line – priced from £20,595 – both available to order now.

Delivering bold exterior and interior designs inspired by Ford's acclaimed Fiesta ST performance model, the new Fiesta ST-Line are designed for customers who aspire to the sporty image of Ford's ST models – but do not require the full performance delivered by optimised ST engines and chassis with sports technologies. Enhanced driving dynamics are delivered by sport suspension – lowered by 10mm

The Fiesta ST-Line is offered with a range of powerful engines including Ford's multi-award-winning 1.0-litre EcoBoost petrol

engine, sport suspension and body styling, unique alloy wheel designs, and sport seats, sport steering wheel and alloy pedals for the interior. Available in 3-door and 5-door bodystyles, the Fiesta ST-Line is a sporty new addition to the UK's best-selling car.

● See these models and many more at Hills Ford at 169-171 Newtown Road, Malvern WR14 1PJ. Call (01684) 212 410 to find out more.

You can also find Hills Ford at Worcester Road, Kidderminster DY10 1JB.

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) Ford Car range: urban 41.5 - 23.54 (6.8-12.0), extra urban 67.3 - 34.87 (4.2-8.1), combined 57.7 - 29.73 (4.9-9.5). Official CO2 emission 95-249g/km. Offers end 30th September 2016. Details correct at time of going to print. Subject to availability. Contact us for full terms and conditions. *Finance deposit subject to status. Guarantees may be required. 2.9% APR Representative offer excludes KA Studio, KA Style, Edge, RS and Mustang. Ford Credit Finance Abbott House, Everard Close, St Albans AL1 2RW. MTCR Marketing LTD Trading as Hills Ford is acting as a credit broker and is not a lender. Retail only. †Conditions apply and excludes RS, ST, Mustang. Images for illustration purposes only. E&OE.



Celerio

The Suzuki Celerio aims to offer the interior space of the company's old Splash model, plus the price and economy of the Suzuki Alto citycar it also replaces. Certainly this car, with its perky 1.0-litre three cylinder engines, big spec list and optional AGS transmission, looks to be made of all the right stuff.

If you want a car that is utterly no-nonsense, easy to use and which we'd bet will prove to be extremely reliable, the Celerio demonstrates that these qualities needn't cost you the earth.

The fact that it's well-equipped and is incredibly cheap to run is just the icing on the cake.

Baleno

Suzuki is bringing back the Baleno nameplate as they expand their range. Although designed to compete against cars like the Ford Fiesta and Skoda Fabia, it promises greater levels of space at a bargain price. Suzuki will be perfectly placed to appeal to those looking to downsize.

There are a couple of highly efficient engine options in the new Baleno. Space is the big selling point though.

Not only is there plenty of room for rear seat passengers, there's a class leading 355-litre boot too.

Compared to the Swift, the Baleno is longer, wider yet lower, which gives it a much less upright look. Safety-highlights include an adaptive cruise control system that can alter the car's speed to suit traffic and autonomous braking too.

Swift range

With the current generation version of their Swift supermini, Suzuki has stayed true to the design principles that have long served them in the small car sector, low running costs, high quality and a spacious cabin being the highlights.

For the latest model year, the design gets minor visual tweaks, the option of 4WD and a five-door bodystyle alternative for the top Sport hot hatch.

If you haven't checked out this Swift for some time but are familiar with the model, you might notice that the latest versions have been lately treated to a restyle running to things like a re-designed front bumper and grille and silver detailing to the lower front bumper.

For added safety and style, a newer LED-type high level brake lamp has been added. Plus there's a reasonable 204-litre boot.

Vitara

The Vitara, Suzuki's latest compact crossover, aims to build a lot of talent into four metres.

With a choice of petrol or diesel, front or all-wheel drive and styling that's more assured than anything Suzuki has brought us before, it looks to be a competitive proposition.

The mechanicals are shared as they are with the existing SX-4 S-Cross. So buyers get to choose between either a 1.6-litre petrol engine or a 118bhp 1.6 diesel, both being offered in front or four-wheel drive guises.

The petrol engine is fitted with a five-speed manual gearbox as standard,



Check out these Suzuki models at Halesowen

with an optional CVT transmission also offered.

Go diesel and you get a six-speed manual box.

Short overhangs will help with off-roading and the ALLGRIP four-wheel-drive transmission features an electronically controlled clutch pack, controlled by a four-position switch on the centre console.

Internally and externally the Vitara

is quite an assured piece of design work.

Buyers can also specify a rugged package which adds front and rear skidplates as well as additional body side mouldings.

● Check out these Suzuki models at Halesowen Motor House on Dudley, Halesowen B63 3NH. Call (0121) 503 0001 to arrange your test drive*.

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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Celerio range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 55.3-68.9 (5.3-4.1), Extra Urban 76.3-83.0 (3.7-3.4), Combined 65.7-78.4 (4.3-3.6), CO₂ emissions 99-84 g/km and for the Suzuki Swift range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 41.5-57.6 (6.8-4.9), Extra Urban 57.6-72.4 (4.9-3.9), Combined 50.4-65.7 (5.6-4.3), CO₂ emissions 128-99 g/km and for the Suzuki Vitara range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 42.1-61.4 (6.7-4.6), Extra Urban 55.4-76.3 (5.1-3.7), Combined 49.5-70.6 (5.7-4.0), CO₂ emissions 131-106 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st July to 30th September 2016 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. Models shown: Celerio 1.0 S22 Petrol Manual available at £6,999 to Celerio 1.0 S24 Petrol AGS available at £9,799 AND *Swift 1.2 3dr S22 available at £8,999 on the road (Metallic paint available at £4,300), Swift range - Swift 1.2 S22 3dr Petrol Manual available at £8,999 to Swift 1.2 S24 5dr Petrol Dualjet available at £12,699, *Vitara 1.6 S24 available at £14,499 on the road. (Single-tone metallic paint available at £4,150, dual-tone paint is available at £800.) Vitara S24 1.6 Petrol Manual available at £14,499 to Vitara S25 1.6 DDIS ALLGRIP TCSS with Rugged Pack available at £24,149.

Fiat Tipo – class leader

Commercial feature

The new Fiat Tipo hatchback is deceptively roomy, being capable of accommodating three six-foot-plus adult passengers in the rear – thanks to class-leading legroom and outstanding headroom.

Its boot capacity is also best-in-class with a volume of 440 litres, while the Station Wagon version adds an additional 110 litres of boot space which, at 550 litres, is also class leading. The Station Wagon can also carry loads of up to 1.8m in length and its flip-and-fold 60/40 split rear seats provide a completely flat load floor.

Loading the boot of the Station Wagon is aided by a low load sill with reconfigurable components such as an adjustable load floor and removable side storage panels to further increase the width of the luggage compartment. The roller cover can be removed with one hand and stored under the floor panel, while two lights, two bag hooks and four load-retaining hooks positioned.

The Tipo features numerous cabin compartments with a variety of shapes and capacities totalling no less than 12 litres. Easily reachable by driver and passengers, these compartments are perfect for storing personal objects, smartphones, game consoles, bottles, coins and much more, and there is also a USB port for charging and connecting devices.

The entry-level trim level is equipped with air conditioning, remote central locking, front electric windows, body-coloured door

mirrors with electric adjustment, six airbags, DAB digital radio, chrome door handles, split rear seats, a front seat centre arm rest, USB and Bluetooth with steering wheel remote controls. The Station Wagon adds rear electric windows and longitudinal roof bars.

Key options for the entry-level version include front fog lights, dark tinted rear windows, rear electric windows (standard on Station Wagon), 16-inch alloy wheels, rear parking sensors) and a five-inch Uconnect touchscreen system with Live services, DAB and satellite navigation).

The mid-range trim level adds a five-inch Uconnect touchscreen infotainment system, a leather-trimmed steering wheel and gear knob, rear power windows, LED daytime running lights, 16-inch alloy wheels, front fog lights, rear parking sensors and cruise control. Price for the mid-level trim is £1,000 above the equivalent entry-level Tipo, simplifying the range and making it easier to choose the best Tipo for needs and budget.

Also included with the mid-level version are the Uconnect LIVE services, which combines with a smartphone app to offer music streaming with Deezer and Tuneln, news from Reuters and the ability to stay in touch with friends via Facebook Check-in and Twitter, not to mention monitoring vehicle performance, efficiency and maintenance status with eco:Drive and my:Car.

The top trim level, which is priced £1,000 above the equivalent mid-level version, builds on the specification of the mid-range Tipo but adds satellite navigation with Tom-Tom LIVE services including HD Traffic, climate control, 17-inch alloy wheels, automatic lights and wipers, rear view camera, driver's side lumbar support and a chrome pack all as standard.



Fiat Tipo has collected the prestigious Autobest “Best Buy Car 2016” award, chosen by a jury of 26 international journalists

There are three petrol engines, a 1.4-litre 16v producing 95hp a 1.4 T-Jet turbo petrol with 120hp and the 1.6-litre e-TorQ engine producing 110hp and two turbo diesel engines – a 1.3-litre MultiJet II producing 95hp and 200Nm and a 1.6-litre MultiJet II with an output of 120hp and 320Nm.

The Fiat Tipo was designed in Italy by the Fiat Style Centre, developed in Turkey together with Tofaş R&D, one of FCA's largest research and development centres, and made in the Tofaş plant in Bursa – one

of the world's best automotive factories, which has received a World Class Manufacturing Gold Medal.

Since its world première at the Istanbul Motor Show in May 2015 and its presentation to the international press last November, the Fiat Tipo has collected the prestigious Autobest “Best Buy Car 2016” award, chosen by a jury of 26 international journalists.

The all-new Fiat Tipo goes on sale in the UK in September in hatchback and station wagon body styles.

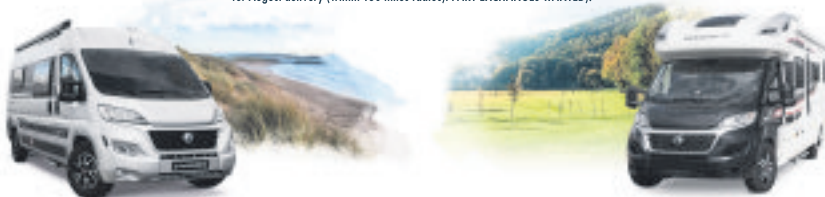
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Advertisement Feature



Motorhomes ownership The smart choice for today's holiday

Over the last few years many people have been turning to camping holidays as a cost effective and fun choice for their breaks. As a result, motorhome ownership has been rising as more people have seen the advantages offered by camping breaks which offer value for money and an enjoyable holiday experience.

The appeal of owning a motorhome is obvious to those who enjoy self catering holidays. You can generally stay where you want to stay and enjoy a real family holiday experience, and trips

away can be relatively inexpensive. There's usually a vibrant social scene at camping sites to consider, and it's worth bearing in mind that these days the vast majority offer excellent onsite facilities.

Purchase

So, how do you decide on which motorhome to purchase? First of all, you must decide on whether you wish to buy new or used. Then you have to take into consideration how many there are of you who might wish to use the motorhome on a regular basis. Two, four, six and even eight berth models are available.

Visit your local motorhome dealer, AEG Motorhomes, where the team of friendly experts will be able to guide you through the process of deciding which model to opt for. You'll need gas and accessories too, and they should be able to assist you with all these aspects of ownership.

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Wraps off new Citroën C3

The New Citroën C3 is a fresh, bold and colourful B-segment, 5-door supermini that delivers new levels of advanced comfort and personality to the sector.

Citroën is renewing its best-selling C3 model, which has already sold more than 3.6 million examples since it was originally launched in 2002.

New Citroën C3 is set to shake-up the market with its highly customisable character and the very latest automotive technologies, including a world premiere for ConnectedCAM Citroën™, an on-board HD camera that allows drivers to share their road-trip photos and videos directly with friends and family.

The new Citroën C3 is everything you would expect a modern Citroën to be – colourful, stylish, brimming with new technologies, supremely comfortable and with a bold, fun-loving personality.

The new C3 embodies all the core values

of Citroën; Optimistic – the C3 combines a characteristically Citroën front-end, with soft lines, flowing curves and striking colour schemes to deliver a powerful and energetic look.

Highly customisable, C3 is audacious and full of personality by design, to ensure each owner can create a bespoke look that suits their individual style.

The exterior has a two-tone paint option, with a choice of three roof colours and complementary touches of colour around the car (fog lights, door mirrors, rear quarter panels and on the Airbump® panels). Inside, customers have a choice of four different interiors that all deliver a spacious, yet intimate feel, thanks to the shape of the seats and an uncluttered dashboard.

New C3 is focused on the well-being of everyone on-board. The Citroën Advanced Comfort® programme has influenced the creation of the new C3.

Comfortable seats, a panoramic glass sunroof that fills the cabin with light, colours



The new Citroën is everything you would expect a modern Citroën to be – colourful, stylish, brimming with technology

and fabrics inspired by travel and home interior design, a 7-inch touchscreen that groups together all of the key vehicle functions and a keyless entry and start system, all combine to emphasise a feeling of reassurance, comfort and calm.

C3 introduces ConnectedCAM Citroën™, a world premiere for the brand. ConnectedCAM Citroën™ uses a fully integrated camera, located behind the rear view mirror, to capture images and video that can instantly be shared on social media channels, or saved as evidence in the

event of an accident. The latest Citroën C3 now offers even more options that improve the driving experience, with an advanced driver assistance system including voice controlled 3D navigation, a reversing camera, lane departure warning and blind-spot monitoring.

Finally, the efficient, high-performance powertrain options continue the technological theme with PureTech petrol and BlueHDi Diesel engines, and the latest generation EAT6 fully automatic gearbox available as part of the range.

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CRÉATIVE TECHNOLOGIE





Megan has the leading edge in the marketplace

By John Griffiths

Renault has hit the ground running with the launch of its new Megana range.

The front runner is the 203bhp GT, but many potential customers will be just as happy with the 108bhp diesel, a real charmer for its punchy performance, low running costs and certainly one of the quietest and refined oil burners in its class.

Prices for the new Megana, with a range of petrol and diesel engines, start at £16,600 while the more powerful and comprehensively equipped GT starts from £25,500.

Estate versions will join the range this autumn, with a diesel hybrid next year, and it would be very surprising if an even more powerful Renaultsport flagship doesn't make an appearance in the near future.

When designing a new car, factors such as aerodynamics (critical for fuel economy) and interior space are limiting factors, so it's no wonder many family hatchbacks have a decidedly samey appearance. But there's a great deal of French style which sets the Megana apart and should make it easily recognisable on the road. The low, slippery front end is characterised by the C-shaped daytime running lights, with the big chrome diamond badge in the centre which is Renault's new marque signature.

Sculpted side panels take you to the rear of the car to a unique and stylish rear light cluster which, for the first time, is also lit up during daytime to give the Megana a look all of its own. The wide rear haunches, tapering to towards the front, make the new Megana look even wider and give it a purposeful look even at rest.

Underneath the skin there is a range of efficient engines, some of the latest technological safety and driving aids and the use of higher grade materials around the cabin which has created the ambience of a more expensive, premium brand.

It is remarkably quiet – the diesel in particular must be top of the class in this respect – with a much stiffer chassis, thicker glass and a lot of attention sound-deadening foam, felt and pads. For those who opt for the GT, some noise will be a requirement of the driving experience so in sport mode there's an electronically produced soundtrack simulating a growly exhaust.

The driving position is cockpit-like, with superbly shaped dual foam sports seats (alcantara in the GT) which support a wide range of body shapes, and there's a plentiful range of adjustment.

In the centre is the large new touch screen controlling a range of vehicle systems, including navigation where fitted,

Control

All Meganas are available with the new Multi-sense drive control system, operated through the central touchscreen. It allows the driver to programme the desired driving characteristics – neutral (or automatic), sport, comfort, personal and eco. These select the appropriate throttle response, engine sound, steering weight, climate control output, interior lighting and, on cars with automated transmission, the speed of gearchanges.

On GT models it also governs the use of the new 4-Control active four wheel steering system, a feature unique to the Megana in this sector. Purely mechanical, passive rear wheel steering has been around for a few years. But Renault's computer-controlled system, where the position of the rear wheels are monitored 100 times per second, is a clear advance. At low speeds, around town, the rear wheels turn in the opposite direction to those at the front, much reducing the Megana's turning circle and endowing it with the agility of a city car. On the open road, the rear wheels turn with those at the front by just one degree, making for a quicker turn-in, with great stability and roadholding.

The car's suspension is a good compromise between comfort and roadholding. The GT comes only with the seven-speed dual clutch automated transmission, with which you can choose an eco drive or a more sporty, free-revving performance via the Multi-sense system.

Its 1.6 turbocharged petrol engine produces 205PS and 280Nm of torque, plenty to take the car from a standstill to 62mph in 7.1 seconds, yet driven in gentler style it can achieve 47mpg (official test) and a CO2 figure of 143g/km.

Figures for the second test car, the 110PS, 1.5 turbodiesel, are 11.3 seconds and up to 72.4mpg, with a tax-efficient 96g/km of CO2 emissions. The other petrol engine choice is a turbocharged 1.2 producing 130PS, the same as the 1.6 turbo diesel option.

Standard equipment multiple airbags, cruise control, ABS, stability control, tinted windows, fingertip audio remote control, and full Bluetooth connectivity. Automatic headlamps and wipers, automatic climate control leather upholstery, and rear parking and sensors are added further up the range.

There are rivals to the new Megana offering high-efficiency engines but the French hatchback has an edge when it matches that with its premium car ambience, refinement and distinctive styling.



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Excess mileage charge per mile	14.9p

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Personal Contract Purchase finance example:

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Manufacturer deposit contribution	£500.00
On the road price	£11,695.00
Interest charges	£1,087.66
Total amount of credit	£10,195.00
Total amount payable	£12,786.66
One final payment	£4,462.50
Duration of agreement (months)	37
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Good price, premium refinement in Insignia

By John Griffiths

Vauxhall's Insignia is a big family car which is aimed firmly at the business market, where low running costs (and in particular tax bills) are critical.

Competition is fierce, with big name rivals such as the Mazda6, VW Passat and, of course, the big-selling Ford Mondeo to contend with. That rivalry has been the key to driving up standards, as well as paring costs, as business drivers often have to spend many hours each working day behind the wheel and take the family out at weekends.

The Insignia has been around for a while, but has been tweaked here and there with particular attention to what's under the bonnet, with a new range of highly efficient engines. The test car was the (wait for it) 1.6CDTi ecoFLEX S/S in Tech Line trim: a bit of a mouthful but popular in company car parks across the country. And I can see why.

The Insignia has good looks on its side because of its sleek, sporty profile which means it could pass itself off as a big coupe – except that it has five doors, and room for five adults and lots of luggage inside.

Even if you're not excited by all things oily and mechanical, you appreciate the brilliance of the relatively small (for a car of this size) 1,598cc turbo diesel engine simply because of the way it impacts on so many aspects of the car.

It is the latest example of what Vauxhall terms its whisper diesel and is aptly named.

You might not be able to hear the clock ticking (it's digital) or a pin drop (because of the thick carpets) but it's virtually silent while cruising the motorway at 70mph, helping the Insignia reach levels of refinement and relaxation that were once the preserve of the rich man's luxury motor.

Its 0 to 62mph time of 10.9 seconds is moderately quick, but with the turbo diesel's 320Nm of torque available from 2,000rpm the sprint figure isn't representative of the Insignia's in-gear performance – for example decisive overtaking.

Impressed

Neither is it underpowered even for such a big car, as its official fuel economy figure is 74.3mpg. That's a laboratory test, of course, which you're unlikely to achieve in the real world but I was impressed by my average of a little over 54mpg. That included around town driving and a trip along Welsh mountains roads with plenty of throttle adjustments and gear changes: on an A-road and motorway cruise I'm confident 60-plus is perfectly possible.

The official figures though mean that its CO2 emissions rating is 99g/km – meaning no road tax and low benefit-in-kind tax for the company car driver. An insurance rating of Group 17E shouldn't break the bank, either.

While running costs are frugal, don't be left with the impression this is a cheap car. The Tech Line cabin is spacious, with high grade materials and big, comfortable seats.

The ride is also a good compromise between dynamics and comfort, so even on poorer surfaces it damps the effects of all but the worst potholes. Yet, with the addition of nicely weighted steering, it's a car you can swing through the corners with confidence.

It's well put together as a car for going the distance. My test drive took in some 200 miles of pretty testing roads which were completed without the driver feeling stiff, tired and grumpy – ideal for today's businessman travelling to an important meeting. The driver gets an electric lumbar support adjuster, which helps keep you comfortable on a long drive and there's an efficient climate control system.

As you'd expect, the driver's comprehensive instrument display is complemented by a central touch screen controller for the audio, satnav and connectivity systems. It also has a programme for adjusting various car settings, eliminating a potential clutter of switches on the fascia.

Standard equipment includes cruise control, electric windows and door mirrors, automatic headlamps and wipers, electronic stability control and six airbags.

An option fitted to the vehicle was Vauxhall's new and impressive Onstar system at £395. Its just three buttons in the roof panel, but using GPS and a telematics system it's a major step forward. You can, for example, speak to a real human operator in Onstar's Luton HQ who can give your car a remote control once-over to see, for example, if your tyres are correctly inflated. Or give them a destination and a route will be downloaded into the car's navigation system.

But probably the most convincing reason for having the option fitted is the red SOS button which can put you in touch with the operator (who will know your location) and alert the emergency services. If the car is stolen, Onstar can remotely disable it and report its location to the police.

The Insignia is competitively priced, particularly for a car offering premium car refinement. Low running costs and futuristic technology to a section of the market where drivers rely on their vehicles to cover high mileages.

It will carry up to 530 litres of cargo (almost 1,500 litres with the rear seats folded down), adding practicality to its stylish yet frugal character.



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2013/13	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 ENERGY 5 door, Black, 18,000 miles	£7,995
2014/14	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 EXCITE 5 door, White, 6,500 miles	£8,495
2014/14	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 EXCITE 5 door, Silver, 11,000 miles	£8,495
2015/65	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 DESIGN 5 door Hatchback, Save £6,000, only	£8,995
2013/63	VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 CDTI SE 5 door, Black, 18,000 miles	£9,150
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2014/14	VAUXHALL CASCADA CONVERTIBLE CDTI SE Gold	£14,995
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2015/15	VAUXHALL CORSA TURBO VXR-LINE 3 door, White, 18,000 miles	£8,750
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Vauxhall Insignia Selection		
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2014/14	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SRI VX-LINE CDTI White, 25,000 miles	£13,250
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2013/63	VAUXHALL MOKKA TECHLINE 1.7 CDTI White, 26,000 miles	£12,350
2014/14	VAUXHALL MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.7 CDTI Brown, Only 11,324 miles	£12,650
2014/14	VAUXHALL MOKKA SE 1.7 CDTI Orange, 29,000 miles	£13,495
2014/63	VAUXHALL MOKKA TURBO AUTOMATIC SE Silver, 14,400 miles	£13,995
2015/15	VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.4 TURBO TECH LINE Brown, Sat Nav, 8,000 miles	£14,450
Vauxhall Meriva and Zafira Selection		
2008/08	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTI DESIGN Silver, Sat Nav, Alloys, 56,000 miles	£4,750
2011/61	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 EXCLUSIV Grey, 35,000 miles	£6,495
2013/13	VAUXHALL MERIVA EXCLUSIV 1400 Petrol, Grey, 26,000 miles	£6,495
2012/12	VAUXHALL MERIVA SE 1.4 TURBO Grey, 35,000 miles	£6,995
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2015/65	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA SE TOURER Black, Very low miles	£17,995
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2007/57	FORD FOCUS STUDIO ESTATE 1.6 Red, 45,000 miles	£3,750
2010/10	VW FOX URBAN Red, Only 20,000 miles	£3,950
2008/58	PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 3 door, Blue, 30,000 miles	£3,995
2008/58	SUBARU JUSTY 5 door, Blue, 39,000 miles	£3,995
2005/55	SAAB 9-3 LINEAR 1.8T CONVERTIBLE Grey, 55,000 miles	£3,995
2006/56	TOYOTA AURIS T3 VVTI Silver, 55,000 miles	£4,495
2008/08	VW GOLF 1.4S 5 door, Silver, Only 3,200 miles	£4,995
2007/56	MERCEDES BENZ C200 CLASSIC SE SALOON DIESEL Metallic Blue, 50,000 miles	£4,995
2010/10	HONDA JAZZ 1.2 VTEC Yellow, 69,000 miles	£4,995
2009/59	TOYOTA IQ 1.0 VVT 3 door, White, 29,000 miles	£4,995
2007/57	NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA CDTI Grey, 62,000 miles	£5,995
2008/08	MAZDA MX5 CONVERTIBLE Grey, Alloys, 52,000 miles	£5,995
2013/13	FIAT 500 LOUNGE 1.2 White, 14,300 miles	£6,475
2005/05	BMW Z4 2.0i SE 2 door, 55,000 miles	£6,495
2008/08	JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.20 SE AUTO DPF 4 door, 56,620 miles	£7,695
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2012/12	FORD MONDEO 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM Silver, 36,000 miles	£8,495
2007/57	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 5 door, Black, 68,000 miles	£11,495
2015/15	RENAULT CLIO 1.6T 16V RENAULTSPORT 200 5 door, Red, 6,800 miles	£13,495

CARS OF THE WEEK * CARS OF THE WEEK * CARS OF THE WEEK

<p>2008/08 MAZDA MX-5 1.8i CONVERTIBLE 2 door, Grey, 51,580 miles</p> <p>£5,995</p>	<p>2008/08 VW GOLF 1.4S 80 A/C, 5 door, Silver, 32,001 miles</p> <p>£4,995</p>	<p>2012/12 FORD MONDEO 1.6 TDCi ECO TITANIUM Start/Stop, 5 door, Silver, 36,500 miles</p> <p>£8,750</p>
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Heritage and nostalgia

By John Griffiths

As Europe's oldest motorcycle manufacturer – continuously producing bikes since 1921 – you'd expect heritage and nostalgia to be high on their agenda.

That's certainly true of its two latest models in terms of styling, which to some extent conceals the fact that both are brand new, up-to-date machines sharing the same new and improved engine.

The Roamer and the Bobber both hark back to a previous era, much like successful retro-styled machines from Triumph and Harley-Davidson.

But for aficionados the Guzzi is unique, not least because of its combination of a characterful big V-twin engine mounted across the frame and shaft drive.

It makes the Italian machine feel like no other, particularly when you feel the shimmy of torque through the saddle if you blip the throttle on down changes.

Most modern bikes do the job with commendable efficiency: the Guzzi also feels alive.

Both Roamer and Bobber (the model tested here) are powered by the all-new 850cc V9 engine. With 55bhp it's not the most powerful V-twin, but it does have a 7bhp advantage over Moto Guzzi's older V7s. Rather more important, with this style of bike, is that fact that it has more torque – now 62Nm – which is available at much lower revs (3,000 instead of 5,000rpm).

It's rather surprising what a difference this

makes. It feels more flexible and responsive, pulling away smoothly from low revs in top (sixth) gear yet also capable of kicking up its heels for a rapid overtake if you change down a cog or two.

This is what you want from a cruiser bike, and this together with its low saddle and straight bars make the Bobber particularly novice-friendly. A slightly down-powered version of the V9 (to make it learner legal) is due out later in the year.

Steering is accurate (partly due to that big front tyre) and handling is benign. The single disc brakes (320mm at the front and 260mm at the rear) come with ABS and are well up to the task expected of them.

The suspension is firmish (although nowhere near as hard as a typical sports bike) and seems a reasonable compromise for this style of machine.

The seat is low (just 770mm) and you sit behind almost straight bars in a comfortable, upright position. The footpegs are slightly forward of the seat, with your knees tucked up behind the cylinder heads.

The lack of wind protection will help to keep you honest, as while the Guzzi will reach 70mph in short order you probably won't want to maintain that speed over long distances due to the pressure on your arms. But then, it is a cruiser not a racer.

The instruments are housed in a single clock in the centre of the bars – an analogue speedo with a digital trip computer – you can flick through the various modes with your left thumb.

The Bobber costs £7,999, the Roamer is £100 less.

The differences are largely cosmetic, although arguably the Bobber has the edge in the style stakes, based as it is on a min-



The Roamer and the Bobber both hark back to a previous era

imalist style of chopped or bobbed bikes which became popular in the US during the 1930s. It's a fashion trend which never really went away, particularly among custom bike enthusiasts.

One cue to its identity is the fat front tyre (130/90 on 16-inch wheels in the Guzzi's case) and although red is a colour option, the test bike just looked right in matt black with yellow decals.

The company seems to agree, as it expects this combination to account for around 80 per cent of sales.

It's paint job, slightly cut down mudguards and more forward-leaning, sportier riding position give the Bobber a more hard-core, aggressive attitude than the softer Roamer. That's as it should be, as the first Bobbers were essentially the hot-roads of the two-wheeled world.

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Dirty dancers having the time of their lives



Lewis Griffiths and Katie Hartland getting into shape with the rest of the cast at rehearsals for the Dirty Dancing production at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre

It's one of the biggest shows of the year.

Dirty Dancing – The Classic Story On Stage will head to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre in November.

Since its Australian debut in 2004, it has become a worldwide phenomenon with productions staged in New Zealand, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, South Africa, Hong Kong, Singapore and throughout Europe, consistently breaking box office records.

Now a new production is making its way to the UK with performances at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday, November 28 to Saturday, December 3, 2016.

We caught up with five cast members to find out about the blockbuster show.

Lewis Griffiths (Johnny Castle), Katie Hartland (Baby), Carlie Milner (Penny), Federico Bellone (director) and Gillian Bruce (choreographer) talked us through the show.

How do you go about turning Dirty Dancing into a stage version?

Gillian Bruce: There is a huge pressure! Everybody knows Dirty Dancing and what I've had to do is look at the ingredients of the movie and adapt it, in terms of styling, so that it works for the stage. Personally, I was very careful when it came to picking the cast. The look had to be right and the sexiness had to be right. I've actually

pushed this to be a little more 'dirty' than I think previous versions have been. I've taken that step further, without becoming vulgar! Choreographing the show is very difficult because it's all couple-work. At times the audience could find it difficult to know where to look as there's so much going on! I've tried hard to bring focus to the numbers and make the routines so that the audience can enjoy the entire thing and not be forced into having to pick what to look at.

This is an entirely new production – a different design with new direction and choreography. How does it differ to previous stage versions?

Federico Bellone: We have a brand new set. We took a photo of the resort that was used in the movie and theatricalised it. The new design makes the show easier to fit into a variety of different theatres around the country and it will look great on any stage, big or small, it will work! I think it's better than ever before – we have three revolves on stage, spinning platforms, it will be quite spectacular. The design is much more intricate than before too. In terms of direction, we've picked up the pace. We don't rush through the show but it's very slick.

Carlie Milner: I was in the previous production and loved it but it's also nice to have a fresh take on things. The director gives you all the information and you absorb it all as a cast and it is fun to create a new vision. I've found things that I'd never thought of to do before, and with the extra visual elements of this particular set I think it's going to be a stunning production.

Lewis, what is it like stepping into Patrick Swayze's shoes?

Lewis Griffiths: Patrick Swayze's shoes are big ones to fill, I do feel that I'm in the shadow of Patrick Swayze and rightly so, I think

anyone who does this role would be. He made Johnny completely his own and I'm not trying to be Patrick Swayze. What you have to do is take the essence of what he brought to the film and make that applicable to your own abilities on stage.

What has been the most exciting part of rehearsing Dirty Dancing?

Katie Hartland: I think for me what has been most exciting is taking the iconic film and recreating it, making it our own. It's inspiring to work with such a great team because I don't feel that I have half the dance experience that some of the cast have. Working alongside them has been great for me, developing technique with all the different dance styles in the show.

Lewis Griffiths: For me, the casting process was quite unbelievable – to think that I got through the rounds and landed the role of Johnny I felt like I was at the bottom of a very large mountain with an incredibly tough climb ahead of me. Already, with the support of a great cast and creative team I'm halfway up there and when we all get to the top we're going to have one hell of a show! I'm honoured to be a part of it.

Dirty Dancing sits happily in the middle of Musical Theatre and Drama – it isn't necessarily one or the other. How do you approach it?

Federico Bellone: It's very difficult because everyone who comes to see Dirty Dancing probably expects a musical, and a lot of people have said 'aren't Johnny and Baby supposed to sing?' I'll be honest and say that I originally thought the same when I saw the show in the West End in 2007. Then I met Eleanor Bergstein, the author, and she told me many reasons for why they shouldn't and we have to accept that she was perfectly right! I suppose it is a play, but there are plenty of musical numbers with a live band and musicians that give it the musical feel – so it should appeal

to people who like both genres. It has the pace and fun of a musical but it is a bit more like reality – they don't just burst into song, music, singing and dancing is only featured naturally as and when it would be in real life.

Is there a certain level of fitness that a Dirty Dancing cast member needs to be to keep up?

Carlie Milner: As any performer would tell you, it's part of the job to stay fit, and also when you're between jobs it's good to turn up to auditions with a certain level of fitness. Your body gets used to the show, I guess it's the same as running three miles a day – eventually your body will just get used to it. It's then up to the individual performer to find their own exercise routines to maintain the energy needed to get you through the show. Cooling down properly is also really important!

What are the most challenging parts of the show?

Carlie Milner: It's a very physical show, sometimes it feels like you're constantly dancing and you have to find it from somewhere to make sure you do everything correctly. My character Penny goes through a trauma so finding the right balance between portraying that honestly and making sure the audience follow the story you're telling through the ups and the downs.

Lewis Griffiths: I consider myself an actor first and foremost, and people tell me that I can dance but I'm in my comfort zone when I'm acting. The character of Johnny is in his comfort zone when he's dancing, he's so at one in a dance studio in his Cuban heels, leading and teaching, so I have to use my strengths as an actor to make my insecurities Johnny Castle's strengths!

By Andy Richardson



The stars stepping out at rehearsal

Hometown date for Dexys old boy



Pete Williams, once of Dexys, is back in the Black Country

FORMER Dexys Midnight Runners bassist Pete Williams is back on home soil next week.

The Black Country-born musician, who founded Dexys with frontman Kevin Rowland, performs, with friends, at Halesowen Athletics and Cycling Club next Friday (August 19).

Imelda May said of the charismatic musician: "He tells terrific stories set to beautiful melodies and sung with passion, charisma and heartfelt honesty. He draws me in every time."

But she is not the only fan. The Reid twins, Charlie and Craig, aka The Proclaimers, personally invited Williams to support them on their 32 date 2015 UK tour.

"Pete is a storyteller in his songs," said the brothers. "We both thought See was the stand out album of 2012. The soulfulness that Pete brings to everything that he does is inspiring. He has the passion of a young writer, and the philosophical overview of a wise man."

Since then, Williams has performed on BBC Scotland's flagship music show The Quay Sessions and in April sold out Birmingham REP Studio theatre.

He now returns to one of his favourite Black Country venues to perform an intimate 'stripped back' semi-acoustic show featuring songs from both his critically acclaimed albums, 2012's See and Roughnecks and Roustabouts, which was released last year.

He will be joined in the unique setting by some very talented co-collaborators and musical friends.

Tickets are £10, available from the venue or at <http://petewilliamsmusic.com/live>



"I'm completely looking forward to it."

Gabrielle's back on road and will Rise to occasion

HAVING recently completed a sell-out tour as special guest to Michael Bolton, soul star Gabrielle is looking forward to being back on the road to perform a greatest hits set later this year.

Her tour will call at Birmingham's Town Hall on November 2 – and Gabrielle can't wait.

"I am completely looking forward to it," she says. "I did the tour with Michael and he was great. We got to the end of the tour and for the first time in 20-odd years I was depressed. I always look forward to going back home but I'd had such a blast that I wanted to get back out there."

"So the management lined up the shows for November and we announced them straight away. You know, I have a 21-year-old and a 13-year-old so most of the time I'm home alone. They have a better social life than me."

Gabrielle's tour will be stripped back, up close and personal. Fans have already taken to Twitter to tell her what to play. "The audience on Twitter have been making suggestions of songs they'd like me to sing. It'll be a bit scary when I make that final decision."

Gabrielle's career got off to an incredible start in 1993 when she broke the record for the highest chart debut by a female with the single Dreams. It went in at two, before rising to number one. She quickly became Britain's most successful soul singer with subsequent hits Give Me A Little More Time, If You Ever, When A Woman, Sunshine and Out Of Reach, which she wrote for the film Bridget Jones' Diary.

Songwriter's new single is released

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Ivor Novello-winning songwriter Scott Matthews has released a new single, The Lantern Flower, in advance of his forthcoming album, Home Pt II.

Matthews has formed his own record company this year, Shed Records, based in Wolverhampton. Fans can order copies of his new album from www.pledgemusic.com

Matthews will release Home Pt II on September 19. The record finds him returning to the source, driven by what he describes as "a need to rekindle a relationship with the artist I was 10 years ago, but joining forces with the artist I am today."

Tribute to Queen a kind of magic

THE sounds of Freddie Mercury and co blast out in Bilston tomorrow night (Friday) with Magic – A Kind Of Queen.

The tribute act, led by Roger Brown, performs all the band's greatest hits at the Robin 2, Mount Pleasant. The two-hour show recreates all the excitement of a live Queen concert. It kicks off at 8.45pm, with tickets at £15, or £1 extra on the door.

The following night, two of the UK's finest Reggae bands unite to bring Bilston's very own Reggae Sunsplash as the venue plays host to a UB40 and Bob Marley tribute.

Tickets are £15, or £16 on the door. Call 01902 401211.

Auditions for Open Mic competition

AUDITIONS for Open Mic UK take place in the Second City on Saturday. Try-outs for the Open Mic Birmingham and the Birmingham Music Competition are being held at the NEC.

Future Music, responsible for discovering acts such as Birdy and Lucy Spraggan, are behind the contests.

They are looking for UK's best singer, duo, vocal group or rapper. The minimum age for Open Mic is 16 with auditions from 10am to 6pm and 18 for the Birmingham Music Competition, with auditions from 4.30-9pm. Go to: <http://www.openmicuk.co.uk/open-mic-birmingham> to enter

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CHOICE



Kirsty Wark

Edinburgh Nights (BBC2, 9.30pm)
New series. Kirsty Wark introduces highlights from the city's annual arts and cultural festivals, including interviews with Angus Deayton and Richard Wilson, who talk about their long associations with Edinburgh and about resurrecting much-loved characters and sketches from the past. Plus, two special commissions which commemorate the centenary of the First World War, and Ian Rankin joins Kirsty on a tour of the Scottish Endarkenment exhibition.

BBC1

6.00 Olympic Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Home Cooking Made Easy. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.45** Olympics 2016. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage on day eight of the Olympic Games in Rio, featuring various rowing finals at the Lagoa Stadium and athletics from the Olympic Stadium. **5.00** BBC News. **5.10** Regional Programme. **5.20** Olympics 2016. Hazel Irvine presents further coverage of day eight of the Olympic Games in Rio.

7.00 **Olympics 2016.** Clare Balding introduces the latest coverage on day eight of the Olympic Games, with the focus solely on the Rio Olympic Velodrome for various track cycling events. The first of the men's sprint quarter-finals takes place at 20.00, with the 9th-12th classification race at 20.18. The second round of the women's keirin gets under way at 21.22, with the second of the men's sprint quarter-finals at 20.34. The women's team pursuit final then begins at 20.53, with the Team GB squad of Laura Trott, Joanna Rowsell-Shand, Eleanor Barker, Katie Archibald and Clara Horne hoping to retain their crown from London four years ago. The 7th-12th classification race in the women's keirin begins at 21.27, with the final following at 21.33, and the action is completed with the men's sprint semi-finals at 21.41 and 21.59.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the opening Premier League matches, including Hull City v Leicester City at KCOM Stadium, and Manchester City v Sunderland at Etihad Stadium. Champions Leicester will be aiming to start the new campaign in a similar fashion to last season, and were expected to record a victory over the newly-promoted Tigers; National Lottery Update.

11.55 **Olympics 2016.** Jason Mohammad presents further coverage on day eight of the Olympics, with Greg Rutherford, Jessica Ennis-Hill and Mo Farah aiming to repeat their 'Super Saturday' heroics of 2012.

4.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. **4.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 **Film:** Two Tickets to Broadway. (1951) **7.50** **Film:** The 39 Steps. (1935) **9.15** **Olympics:** Rio Highlights 2016. Highlights of the seventh day of the Olympics. **12.45** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.15** Full Steam Ahead. (R) **6.15** **Dad's Army.** (R) **6.50** **Proms Extra 2016.** Katie Derham presents live from the Royal Albert Hall, where she aims to warm the audience up for tonight's performance – a Gershwin Gala featuring the John Wilson Orchestra. She also revisits recent highlights from the Proms, including Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto and Holst's Planets, while David Owen Norris returns with Chord of the Week.

7.30 **BBC Proms 2016.** Katie Derham presents as-live from the Royal Albert Hall as conductor John Wilson and his orchestra celebrate the music of George and Ira Gershwin, the American songwriting duo created some of the most memorable songs to hit Broadway in the 20th century. Singers Julian Ovenden, Louise Dearman and Matthew Ford are on hand to accompany the John Wilson Orchestra as they perform popular Gershwin tunes such as Fascinating Rhythm. They All Laughed and many more, and the ensemble's musicians showcase their skill in orchestral numbers including An American in Paris, and a Rhapsody in Blue Overture.

9.30 **Edinburgh Nights.** New series. Kirsty Wark introduces highlights from the city's annual arts and cultural festivals, including interviews with Angus Deayton.

10.00 **The National Lottery Live.** Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws. Plus, a catch-up with Team GB medal-winners at the Rio Olympics. Presented by Kate Garraway.

10.10 **Olympics 2016.** Clare Balding presents coverage of the eighth day of competition at the Olympic Games, with men's sprint cycling and Great Britain v USA in women's hockey taking centre stage.

11.55 **Versailles.** (R) Inside Versailles. **12.55** **Film:** The Kid with a Bike. (2011) **2.20** **Film:** Treacle Jr. (2010) **3.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** NinjaGo: Rise of the Snakes. (R) **8.25** **ITV News.** **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** **Film:** Columbo: Forgotten Lady. (1975) **1.25** **ITV News:** Weather. **1.30** Wild Animal Reunions. (R) **2.30** Doc Martin. (R) **3.30** River Monsters. (R) **4.00** **Film:** The Mummy. (1999) Fantasy action adventure. **6.15** **Regional Programme;** Weather. **6.30** **ITV News;** Weather.

6.45 **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring a tiny archaeologist who digs up more than anyone bargained for, and an eating competition.

7.15 **Catchphrase.** Amanda Tollan, Manish Mehta and Charlotte Myers set out to prove they can "see it and say it" as Stephen Mulhern challenges them to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000.

8.00 **The Nation's Favourite 80s Number One.** A look at the 1980s – a defining decade in both pop and fashion. Featuring interviews with Spandau Ballet, Bonnie Tyler and Madness, plus a look at the stories behind chart classics such as Don't You Want Me, Tainted Love, Billie Jean and Come On Eileen. Zoe Ball narrates. (R)

9.30 **Film:** The Bourne Identity. (2002) A fishing boat crew plucks a man out of the sea with two bullet wounds in his back and a safe-deposit number sewn into his skin – but absolutely no memory of who he is or how he got there. In the search for his true identity, he is pursued by assassins – but his skill at evading them suggests his own past is far from straightforward. Thriller, starring Matt Damon.

11.00 **ITV News;** Weather.

11.15 **Film:** The Bourne Identity. (2002) Concludes.

12.00 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** **ITV** Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Shipping Wars. (R) **6.40** Gillette World Sport. **7.05** Army Road Races. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newbury, Newmarket and Ripon. **4.30** Couples Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Couples Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.00** **Channel 4 News.**

6.20 **Film:** Men in Black II. (2002) Agent J investigates the unauthorised landing of a spacecraft and discovers a malevolent alien disguised as a lingerie model is on the verge of destroying humanity. His only hope of stopping her diabolical plot is to restore the memory of his retired partner K – but his former mentor takes more than a little convincing. Sci-fi comedy sequel, directed by Barry Sonnenfeld, starring Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones, Rosario Dawson, Lara Flynn Boyle, Johnny Knoxville, Rip Torn and Tony Shalhoub.

8.00 **Film:** Rise of the Planet of the Apes. (2011) A scientist carries out genetic experiments on apes, hoping to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. A chimpanzee used in the tests develops superior intelligence and becomes outraged at the human race's cruel treatment of his kind, forming his fellow primates into an army to overthrow mankind. Sci-fi thriller, starring James Franco, Freida Pinto and Andy Serkis.

10.00 **Film:** Gladiator. (2000) A Roman general is forced to fight as a gladiator and uses his position to seek revenge for the murder of his family. Oscar-winning epic, with Russell Crowe and Joaquin Phoenix.

12.55 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. The Greek at the Harbour restaurant in California. (R) **1.50** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Joe finds suspicious texts on Mercedes' phone. (R) **3.55** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **4.15** Phil: Secret Agent Down Under. Ravi and Kiran Munde search for a home in Perth, Australia. (R) **5.10** Location, Location, Location. Two couples hoping to relocate to Surrey. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.25** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.00** The Saturday Show Live. **11.00** Funniest Fails, Fails & Flops. **11.25** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **12.20** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **1.15** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **2.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **5.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **6.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. In East London, High Court Enforcement Agents Paul and Phil are involved in a brothel eviction, while in south Wales, Stewart and Elmore chase a debt owed by a working mum. (R)

6.55 **5 News** Weekend.

7.00 **Cricket** on 5. England v Pakistan. Mark Nicholas presents action from day three of the Fourth Test in the four-match series, which took place at The Oval. With commentary and analysis from Geoffrey Boycott, Michael Vaughan and Simon Hughes.

8.00 **Criminally Funny: Caught in the Act.** Zoe Lyons, Matt Richardson and Dave Spiper introduce a selection of humorous clips capturing the law being broken, including footage of a kleptomaniac cat. Narrated by Iain Lee. (R)

9.00 **Football** on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Aston Villa v Rotherham United and Norwich City v Sheffield Wednesday.

10.00 **Football** on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in the Leagues One and Two.

10.30 **Celebrity Big Brother.** Marcus Bentley narrates as the famous housemates lie in their beds, chat on the sofas and argue in the kitchen – all for the enjoyment of the viewing public.

11.30 **Impractical Jokers UK.** The Jokers head to a shopping centre to describe their missing wife to the public and compete to claim high-fives from complete strangers on the street. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
1.00 **Olympics 2016** **2.00** Britain on Film: Country Living **2.30** Sounds of the Sixties **3.00** The Joy of Disco **4.00** Close

ITV2
11.45 Ninja Warrior UK **12.45** Catchphrase **1.35** Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! **2.35** **Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **3.35** FYI Daily **3.40** **Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **4.40** The X Factor: Top 10 Best Auditions **5.45** **Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50** **Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **9.00** **Film:** The Matrix Revolutions (2003) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** **Film:** The Matrix Revolutions (2003) **11.25** Family Guy **12.55** American Dad! **1.55** The Cleveland Show **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** **ITV2** Nightscreen **8.25**

ITV3
12.50 **Film:** Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **1.55** FYI Daily **2.00** **Film:** Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **2.45** Lewis **4.45** Foyle's War **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Lewis **10.00** Touch of Frost **12.05** Inspector Morse **2.10** **ITV3** Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.35 British Superbike Championship Highlights **12.35** Silverstone Classic **1.40** **Film:** Captain Newman MD (1964) **2.40** FYI Daily **2.45** **Film:** Captain Newman MD (1964) **4.15** **Film:** Dunkirk (1958) **5.25** FYI Daily **5.30** **Film:** Dunkirk (1958) **7.00** Mr Bean **8.00** **Film:** Cannonball Run II (1984) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10** **Film:** Cannonball Run II (1984) **10.15** **Film:** Lock Up (1989) **11.20** FYI Daily **11.25** **Film:** Lock Up (1989) **12.25** **Film:** 30 Days of Night (2007) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35** **Film:** 30 Days of Night (2007) **2.40** Movies Now **2.50** **ITV4** Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.00 Made in Chelsea: South of France **1.00** New Girl **1.30** The Goldbros **3.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.25** **Film:** Step Up (2006) **6.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** X-Men Origins: Wolverine (1996) **11.05** Gogglebox **12.10** Rude Tube **1.20** First Dates **2.20** Broke Girls **3.00** Gogglebox **3.55** How I Met Your Mother **4.35** The Mindy Project **5.20** Revenge **Film4**

11.00 Bugsy Malone (1976) **1.00** Inspector Gadget (1999) **2.40** Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) **4.30** Mission: Impossible (1996) **6.40** Mission: Impossible 2 (2000) **9.00** The Sweeney (2012) **11.15** Die Hard 2 (1990) **1.35** 12 Rounds (2009) **3.50** Close

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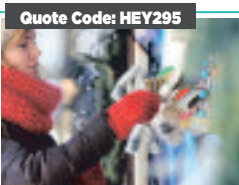
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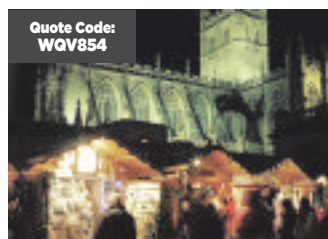
Departing Saturday 26 November 2016

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Bath Christmas Market & Blenheim Palace Saver

Departing Saturday 3 December 2016

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Price Includes...

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CHOICE



Arthur Williams

Flying to the Ends of the Earth (Channel 4, 7pm)
Arthur Williams makes a journey by air across Peru, passing through deserts, mountains and jungles. He investigates new theories concerning the origins of the Nazca lines, 2000-year-old lines etched into the desert sands that some believe were created by aliens, but may actually be a map showing the location of underground water sources. He makes a risky landing in a canyon to explore a gold mine and visits a community of floating houses designed to survive the dramatic rise and fall of the Amazon. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Olympic Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.45** BBC News: Weather. **1.00** Olympics 2016. Hazel Irvine introduces action from day nine of the Olympic Games, featuring live coverage of the women's marathon at Sambodromo and boxing highlights from Rio. **5.00** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.30** Countryfile. **6.30** **Film: Megamind.** (2010) An evil genius finally succeeds in killing the superhero who has foiled his every evil scheme, but finds life without an enemy boring. To fill the gap in his life, he transforms an ordinary man into a worthy adversary – but when his creation turns evil, it falls to the villain to save the world. Animated comedy, with the voices of Will Ferrell, Tina Fey and Brad Pitt. **8.00** **Robot Wars.** Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present more battles in the arena. A team of engineering students has created a robot that is able to move easily in any direction, which they send into battle against a group of holiday camp staff and a father and son duo whose machine is equipped with huge piercing claws. **9.00** **Dragons' Den.** Evan Davis presents the show as more entrepreneurs try to impress the panel. Peter Jones, Deborah Meaden, Touker Suleyman, Sarah Wellingham and Nick Jenkins cast their eyes over an innovative tool and a portable water-saving device. However, a restaurateur struggles to get across the details of his business plan. **10.00** **BBC News.** **10.20** **Regional Programme.** **10.30** **Match of the Day 2.** Manish Basran presents action from the latest Premier League matches, which were Bournemouth v Manchester United at Vitality Stadium and Arsenal v Liverpool at Emirates Stadium. **11.25** **Olympics 2016.** Clare Balding presents further live coverage on day nine, focusing on track cycling at the Rio Olympic Velodrome, with the closing stages of the men's omnium elimination race. **12.00** **Olympics 2016.** Jason Mohammad introduces further coverage on day nine of the Games, featuring the flagship event of the athletics schedule – the men's 100m final – as well as the men's 400m final. **3.00** **Weather** for the Week Ahead. **3.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Gardeners' World. (R) **6.45** Countryfile. (R) **7.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **9.15** Olympics: Rio Highlights 2016. Action from day eight of the Games in Rio. **1.00** **Film: The Prisoner of Zenda.** (1952) Adventure, starring Stewart Granger. **2.40** **Flog It!** (R) **3.25** Highlands: Scotland's Wild Heart. (R) **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Olympics 2016. Featuring sailing and artistic gymnastics. **6.30** **Film: Megamind.** (2010) An evil genius finally succeeds in killing the superhero who has foiled his every evil scheme, but finds life without an enemy boring. To fill the gap in his life, he transforms an ordinary man into a worthy adversary – but when his creation turns evil, it falls to the villain to save the world. Animated comedy, with the voices of Will Ferrell, Tina Fey and Brad Pitt. **8.00** **Robot Wars.** Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present more battles in the arena. A team of engineering students has created a robot that is able to move easily in any direction, which they send into battle against a group of holiday camp staff and a father and son duo whose machine is equipped with huge piercing claws. **9.00** **Dragons' Den.** Evan Davis presents the show as more entrepreneurs try to impress the panel. Peter Jones, Deborah Meaden, Touker Suleyman, Sarah Wellingham and Nick Jenkins cast their eyes over an innovative tool and a portable water-saving device. However, a restaurateur struggles to get across the details of his business plan. **10.00** **Olympics 2016.** Clare Balding and Mark Chapman introduce the latest from day nine of the Games in Rio, including live track cycling coverage and a round-up of the day's action so far. **11.25** **Film: Mister John.** (2013) Premiere. A man coping with a failing marriage goes to Singapore and is tempted to make a fresh start by assuming his dead brother's identity. Drama, starring Aidan Gillen. **12.55** **Sign Zone.** Countryfile. Anita Rani reports from the Scottish island of Kerrera. (R) **1.50** **Holly City.** Bernie faces an ethical dilemma when her wayward son arrives at the hospital. (R) **2.50** **This is BBC Two.** Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes. (R) **8.25** **ITV News.** **8.30** **Weekend.** **8.55** **Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **10.25** **Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **11.25** **Film: Columbus: Now You See Him.** (1976) **1.15** **ITV News: Weather.** **1.25** **Long Lost Family.** (R) **2.25** **The Chase.** (R) **3.25** **Film: Peter Pan.** (2003) Fantasy adventure, with Jeremy Sumpter and Rachel Hurd-Wood. **5.30** **Masterpiece** with Alan Titchmarsh. (R) **6.30** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.45** **ITV News: Weather.** **7.00** **The Zoo.** Documentary following life at London Zoo and Whipsnade, focusing on the breeding of critically endangered animals. This edition follows the journey of three Sumatran tiger cubs from the moment they are born to the last time they can be safely handled by keepers and vets, and revisits Flora the pygmy hippo as she continues to receive life-saving treatment for cancer. Plus, head of birds Adrian Walls and the team finally manage to breed their first-ever Humboldt penguin chick, which is soon joined by six more babies. Narrated by Sarah Lancashire. (R) **8.00** **Midsomer Murders.** Forest ranger Felicity Ward is blinded by mysterious lights while driving at night in the village of Cooper Hill and the next morning her car is found abandoned at the roadside, followed closely by the discovery of her body. Visiting UFO spotters in the village are convinced aliens are responsible, but as Barnaby and Nelson try to get to the truth, they unearth suspicions, betrayals and long-buried secrets along the way. Michelle Collins, Steve Evers, Alison Steadman, Steve Oram and Pip Torrens guest star. (R) **10.00** **ITV News: Weather.** **10.15** **Slow Train Through Africa with Griff Rhys Jones.** The comedian attempts to zigzag his way 1,200 miles through Kenya and Tanzania, beginning this leg of his journey on a vintage steam locomotive designed in Glasgow. (R) **11.15** **Tipping Point.** (R) **11.15** **Jackpot247.** **3.00** **Motorsport UK.** **3.50** **British Superbike Championship Highlights.** **4.40** **ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.05 London Triathlon. **7.00** Motor Sport: British GT. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons: Bart Day. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons: Bart Day. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons: Bart Day. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons: Bart Day. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons: Bart Day. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons: Bart Day. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons: Bart Day. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons: Bart Day. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Flying to the Ends of the Earth.** Arthur Williams makes a journey across Peru, passing through deserts, mountains and jungles and investigating the origin of the famous 2000-year-old Nazca lines. Last in the series. **8.00** **Film: Captain America: The First Avenger.** (2011) Premiere. A puny but brave volunteer is rejected for military service during the Second World War. He becomes the test subject for an experiment that transforms him into the ultimate soldier, and battles against a secret Nazi society plotting to harness the powers of a mystical artefact. Superhero adventure, with Chris Evans, Hugo Weaving, Hayley Atwell and Tommy Lee Jones. Edited for language and violence. **10.30** **Film: Cuban Fury.** (2014) A boy's dream of being a champion salsa dancer is shattered by bullies. Twenty years later, he returns to the dance floor as an overweight and under-confident adult, and tries to get his old footwear back in a bid to sweep his boss off her feet. Comedy, starring Nick Frost, Chris O'Dowd, Rashida Jones, Ian McShane and Olivia Colman. **12.15** Ramsay's Hotel Hell. Gordon Ramsay visits the Beachfront Inn and Motel in Florida, whose inexperienced owner is making guests' time miserable with dusty rooms, late-night concerts and poor service. (R) **1.05** Friday Night Dinner. (R) **1.35** Walking the Himalayas. Levison Wood joins pilgrims on their way to India's holiest city. (R) **2.30** Location, Location, Location. Two couples search for homes in Hertfordshire. (R) **3.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Draw It! (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. (R) **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.10** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Shimmer and Shine. **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.25** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **1.00** **Film: WarGames.** (1983) A teenager hacks into a top-secret military supercomputer, unwittingly pushing the world to the brink of nuclear war. Thriller, with Matthew Broderick, Ally Sheedy and John Wood. Edited for language and flashing images. **3.10** **Film: The Time Machine.** (2002) Sci-fi adventure, starring Guy Pearce. **5.00** **Film: Planet of the Apes.** (2001) Sci-fi adventure remake, starring Mark Wahlberg. **7.00** **Cricknet on 5.** England v Pakistan. Mark Nicholas presents action from day four of the Fourth Test in the four-match series, which took place at The Oval. With commentary and analysis from Geoffrey Boycott, Michael Vaughan and Simon Hughes. **8.00** **Monkeys Make You Laugh Out Loud.** Compilation of internet videos featuring monkeys doing bizarre and humorous things. **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Celebrity Big Brother.** A chance to catch up with the latest events inside the BB bungalow as the celebrities cope with living under constant surveillance, with all the arguments and alliances, as well as the revelations in the diary room. **10.00** **Film: Pulp Fiction.** (1994) A series of interlinked stories about the Los Angeles underworld. Quentin Tarantino's crime drama, starring John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson, Uma Thurman and Bruce Willis. **1.00** **SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** **Mascara Boys: Sex Me Up.** Men obsessed with how they look and determined to turn themselves into the perfect specimen, either through the use of make-up or by going under the knife. (R) **4.00** **House Doctor.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
1.00 Olympics 2016 **2.00** Britain on Film: End of Empire **2.30** Sounds of the Sixties **3.00** The Pendle Witch Child **4.00** **Cloze**
ITV2
11.45 The X Factor: Top 10 Best Auditions **12.45** Take Me Out **1.55** **Film: Mr Bean's Holiday** (2007) **2.55** FYI Daily **3.00** **Film: Mr Bean's Holiday** (2007) **3.40** The X Factor: Top 10 Worst Auditions **4.45** **Film: The Smurfs 2** (2013) **5.50** FYI Daily **5.55** **Film: The Smurfs 2** (2013) **6.55** **Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug** (2013) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** **Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug** (2013) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** **Bordertown** **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** **Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records** **2.15** **Teleshopping** **5.45** **ITV2 Nightscreen**
ITV3
12.20 A Touch of Frost **2.25** **Wycliffe** **3.40** **Film: The Railway Children** (1970) **4.45** **Film: The Railway Children** (1970) **5.55** **Doc Martin** **8.00** **Royal Stories** **9.00** **Million Dollars Princesses** **10.00** **Film: Elizabeth: The Golden Age** (2007) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05** **Film: Elizabeth: The Golden Age** (2007) **12.20** **Wire in the Blood** **3.05** **May the Best House Win** **4.50** **Rising Damp** **5.40** **ITV3 Nightscreen**
ITV4
11.00 **Live British Touring Car Championship.** Round seven from Knockhill. **6.15** **BBC Formula 3 Championship Highlights** **7.15** **Football Rivalries** **7.30** **Pawn Stars** **8.00** **The Chase: Celebrity Special** **9.00** **Film: The Deer Hunter** (1978) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** **Film: The Deer Hunter** (1978) **12.40** **Film: Mars Attacks!** (1996) **1.40** FYI Daily **1.45** **Film: Mars Attacks!** (1996) **2.55** **ITV4 Nightscreen** **3.00** **Teleshopping**
E4
12.00 **Coach Trip: Road to Ibiza** **2.35** **The Goldbergs** **4.30** **Film: Journey to the Center of the Earth** (2008) **6.30** **The Big Bang Theory** **9.00** **Film: Aliens** (1986) **12.05** **Tattoo Fixers on Holiday** **1.10** **Gogglebox** **2.00** **Containment** **2.50** **Angie Tribeca** **3.10** **New Girl** **3.30** **Hollyoaks**
Film4
11.00 **Porridge** (1979) **1.00** **Rango** (2011) **3.10** **The House of Magic** (2013) **4.50** **Mirror Mirror** (2012) **6.55** **The Tourist** (2010) **9.00** **This Is England** (2006) **11.05** **Savages** (2012) **1.40** **The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser** (1974) **3.55** **Cloze**



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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Millionaire Mystery: The Ultimate Gift, Channel 5, 3.10pm
A man has to complete a series of odd tasks set by billionaire grandfather in order to receive his inheritance from his billionaire grandfather, with no idea the challenges will change his life completely. Family drama, starring James Garner and Drew Fuller. (2006)

TUESDAY
Buried Secrets, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Former cop Sarah Winters publishes her first novel, and finds herself on the wrong side of the law when her book's plot seems to mirror an all-too-real murder case. Thriller, starring Sarah Carter. (2014)

WEDNESDAY
Killer Instinct: From the Files of Candice DeLong, Channel 5, 3.20pm
An FBI agent retires after 15 gruelling years to pursue a career in nursing. She is drawn back to the bureau after her best friend is raped by a man responsible for a series of murders. However, as she investigates the case, she and her son end up being stalked by the killer. Fact-based crime drama, starring Jean Smart and A Martinez. (2003)



Burke & Hare, Friday, BBC2, 11.10pm

THURSDAY
Survive the Serengeti: Against the Wild 2, Channel 5, 3.15pm
When their plane crash-lands in the African bush, two bickering siblings find themselves forced to rely on their wits – and their courageous dog – to help them conquer their fears and survive. Adventure, starring Jeri Ryan, John Paul Ruttan and Ella Ballentine. (2016)

FRIDAY
Burke & Hare, BBC2, 11.10pm
Two Irishmen in 19th-century Edinburgh have to dispose of a dead lodger, and learn a doctor pays well for cadavers to use in his anatomy lectures. Seeing a chance to get rich, they soon progress from grave robbing to murder in a bid to keep their benefactor in fresh corpses. Comedy horror, starring Simon Pegg, Andy Serkis and Jessica Hynes. (2010)

Famous faces put their knowledge to the test

In 2004, Channel 4 brought together a number of British celebs for the first ever Big Fat Quiz. The show featured comic Jimmy Carr as host and three teams made of two panelists each.

Carr asked the teams questions pertaining to events that had happened that past year.

The show was a massive success, which ensured that it would soon be a yearly thing.

Over the years, though, the programme has reached levels of both legend and infamy.

In 2006, during his heyday as the enfant terrible of British comedy, Russell Brand teamed up with The Mighty Boosh's Noel Fielding.

The two oddballs called themselves The Goth Detectives and began the tradition of purposely writing surreal and ridiculous answers in an effort to amuse the audience as opposed to trying to win the game.

This even led to the pair eventually performing a Goth Detectives-themed show for the Teenage Cancer Trust event at the Royal Albert Hall in 2007.

This tongue-in-cheek spirit has continued throughout the years and not only led to funny moments, but also a bit of controversy.

Back in 2012, James Corden made headlines when he and his League of Their Own pal Jack Whitehall got slightly inebriated on the programme, and even had pizza delivered, washing it down it with red wine.

At one point, it seemed the two drunk comics were hellbent on making the most randy and puerile jokes imaginable.

In addition to the annual year-end shows, Channel Four has also produced some specials.

Timed to coincide with the run-up to the broadcaster's 30th-birthday celebrations in 2012, three episodes were broadcast, each focusing on an entire decade: the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s.

In the past few years, the show seems to have calmed down somewhat, which might explain why they brought on a rampaging dinosaur and let The Great British Baking Show co-host Mel Giedroyc spark a

food fight during last year's The Big Fat Quiz of Everything.

Still, the show is a winner and for an hour and a half provides us viewers with a large slice of escapism and madness.

The fact that it probably takes two to three times as long to shoot and the comics go stir-crazy after being held for hours in the same studio perhaps contributes to this.

This evening, in the first of three editions, Carr once again is the host in charge of three teams who answer questions about everything from the last 100,000 years of human history.

Although to keep things slightly more manageable, the quiz is split into categories such as art, literature, television, music, geography, politics, science and celebrity.

Tonight's teams time are Jonathan Ross and Mel Giedroyc, Kristen Schaal and David Mitchell, and Bob Mortimer and Claudia Winkleman.

Viewers can also expect a few special guests, including Jon Snow and Joey Essex as well as some other unexpected visitors.



The Big Fat Quiz of Everything, Monday, Channel 4, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Wild France with Ray Mears ITV, 8pm

Ray travels to the west of Brittany to explore the rugged coastline and heading out by boat to its nearby islands. On his journey, he has a close encounter with bottlenose dolphins when they swim up to the vessel and also visits a seal colony and meets seaweed fishermen before heading back to shore. By the rocks, he discovers peregrines that have built their nest dangerously close to land, while Ray heads down to the beach to look for shellfish with a local expert and learns about Brittany's high tides. Last in the series.

Kate Humble: My Sheepdog and Me BBC2, 9pm

The broadcaster sets out to breed Welsh sheepdog puppies from her beloved pet Teg, learns about the threat facing British herding dogs and tries to train Teg to work in the traditional Welsh way. Along the way, Kate meets a team at the University of Aberystwyth whose groundbreaking DNA research reveals some remarkable facts about the breed, and if Teg can produce a litter of healthy puppies, it would play a big part in helping one of Britain's unique herding dogs survive for generations to come.

TUESDAY
Heroes of Helmand: The British Army's Great Escape Channel 4, 9pm

Documentary revealing how a company of British soldiers fought under siege in 2006 for more than 50 days in a remote Afghanistan town. Trapped in a small compound, outgunned, outnumbered, and at the mercy of the Taliban, the fight to hold Musa Quala became one of the most important last stands in UK history – a quarter of all the ammunition used by the British Army in Helmand for the whole of 2006 was fired in less than two months. Ex-soldiers tell their story and share the footage they captured.

WEDNESDAY
Olympics 2016 BBC1, 1.45pm
Hazel Irvine presents the latest live coverage on day 12 of the Games in Rio. Defending champion Mo Farah features in the men's 5,000m heats at the Olympic Stadium from 14.05, looking to

make it through to yet another major final, before the decathlon long jump at 14.35, the women's 800m heats at 14.55, the men's steeplechase final at 15.50 and the decathlon shot put from 16.15. The athletics action is interspersed with coverage from the National Equestrian Centre, where the team show jumping final takes place, with Great Britain looking to defend their title.



Celeb Trolls: We're Coming to Get You, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY
Celeb Trolls: We're Coming to Get You Channel 5, 10pm

Since finding fame as one of the Saturdays, singer Frankie Bridge has been on the receiving end of hurtful online harassment. Now, she's meeting some of the other people who have also fallen victim to trolls, including Chris Maloney, who received death threats following his appearances on The X Factor, and Nicola Brookes, who

has spent five years dealing with appalling images and allegations, all because of one tame online comment. Perhaps most shockingly of all, Denise Fergus, the mother of murdered toddler James Bulger, reveals how cruel individuals regularly taunt her about her family's loss. However, Frankie is fighting back with the help of a team of Troll Trackers, who hope to identify some of the people behind this anonymous abuse and hold them accountable for their actions.

FRIDAY
Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year Channel 4, 8pm

This year's competition has featured everything from a Star Wars theme, real-life crocodiles, hydraulics and Viking hideouts, to 360-degree rotating floors, nuclear bunkers, sheds on wheels and entire shed villages. There was a record 2,825 entries into the competition and tonight sees the conclusion, as George Clarke and his fellow judges choose one shed from all the category winners to crown overall winner. But before that, they consider the sheds in the Budget category. To prove a good shed doesn't have to be extravagant or expensive, this selection includes a colourful beach house built for just £20, and the Cabins and Summerhouses which features a classic van and a dream structure in an allotment.

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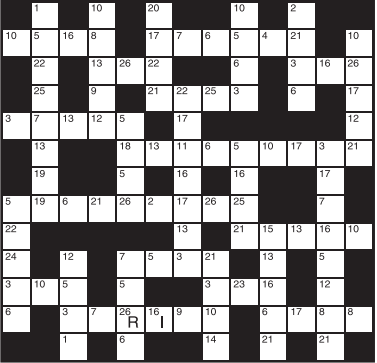
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BRAIN GYM No.390

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
O M U D Z S N C V H L G F
J E R A B K Q X P W Y I T

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

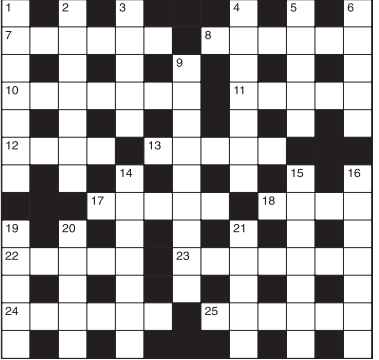
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 7. The standard put in front of an invader (6)
- 8. Father interrupts the others in a good meal (6)
- 10. Carter dead in the conflict (7)
- 11. The sum is a little rum to nearly everybody (5)
- 12. Deer took cover round the north (4)
- 13 & 17Ac. Instrument could make one a profit (10)
- 17. See 13 Across
- 18. See 6 Down
- 22. See 1 Down
- 23. It's a struggle for a hundred on trial (7)
- 24. See 21 Down
- 25. She's out of breath! (6)

Down

- 1 & 22Ac. Be informed, like the sailor or the boxer (4,3,5)
- 2. Nothing rising strangely from these sources (7)
- 3 & 19Dn. It bristles with artistic associations (5-5)
- 4. See 16 Down
- 5. See 20 Down
- 6 & 18Ac. Deadlock on the board (9)
- 9. It's a crime to break the cease-fire (9)
- 14. Have police band on the ship (7)
- 15. The colour to get a man upset (7)
- 16 & 4Dn. Does this provide middling warmth? (7,7)
- 19. See 3 Down
- 20 & 5Dn. Accessories for roles not yet cast? (5,5)
- 21 & 24Ac. Certainly don't exaggerate description of one nervously tense (5,6)



Quick Clues:

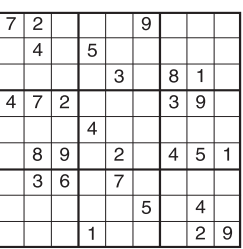
Across

- 7. Share (6)
- 8. Contention (6)
- 10. Enterprise (7)
- 11. Knave (5)
- 12. Profound (4)
- 13. Nip (5)
- 17. Lukewarm (5)
- 18. Dumb (4)
- 22. Begin (5)
- 23. Miser (7)
- 24. Go (6)
- 25. Hold back (6)

Down

- 1. Supply (7)
- 2. Dwarfed (7)
- 3. Sham (5)
- 4. Allure (7)
- 5. Tint (5)
- 6. Drive off (5)
- 9. Lacking (9)
- 14. Discourse (7)
- 15. Deserter (7)
- 16. Title (7)
- 19. Privately (5)
- 20. Glad (5)
- 21. Concur (5)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	5	6	9	7	8	3	2	4
9	2	4	5	1	3	6	8	7
8	3	7	4	6	2	5	9	1
6	7	1	3	5	9	8	4	2
2	8	9	6	4	1	7	3	5
3	4	5	8	2	7	1	6	9
4	9	3	7	8	5	2	1	6
5	6	2	1	3	4	9	7	8
7	1	8	2	9	6	4	5	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Craft; 4 Stumble; 8 Nunery; 9 Icing; 10 Owls; 11 Underdog; 13 Mass; 14 User; 16 Outright; 17 Taxi; 20 India; 21 Ovation; 22 Targets; 23 Essel. Down: 1 Contortionist; 2 Annu; 3 Tier; 4 Saying; 5 Universe; 6 Builder; 7 Engaged signal; 12 Estimate; 13 Matador; 15 Shoots; 18 Adits; 19 Wage. QUICK - Across: 1 Felon; 4 Dismiss; 8 Ruction; 9 Mimic; 10 Keen; 11 Rehearse; 13 Tune; 14 True; 16 Laudable; 17 Maze; 20 Dying; 21 Elevate; 22 Extreme; 23 Dress. Down: 1 Foreknowledge; 2 Lucie; 3 Nafi; 4 Danced; 5 Symmetry; 6 Immerse; 7 Secretiveness; 12 Entangle; 13 Tourist; 15 Allego; 18 Awake; 19 Mend.

Thinking space

Quiz

- 1. Who won Oscars for Kluge and Coming Home?
- 2. In which mountains are St Bernards employed?
- 3. Which plant's leaves are the common antidote to nettle stings?
- 4. Which TV programme did Roy Castle present for 22 years?
- 5. The 38th parallel became a boundary within which country in 1945?
- 6. Of which organisation did Ros Hepplewhite resign as head in 1994?
- 7. Which brothers based an opera on a novel by DuBose Heyward?
- 8. What type of fish is a torpedo fish?
- 9. Which Carry On star played Peggy in EastEnders?
- 10. Which temperature scale starts at absolute zero?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Pocahontas; 2 A goat; 3 Mercury and Venus; 4 Lindsay Anderson; 5 Phosphorus; 6 Orkneys; 7 Just William; 8 Homer; 9 Japan; 10 Conservative.
Niner: CALUMNIES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

32784 gives a good man,
179 gives a bad man,
1567428 gives a religious man.



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Three-bed semi for sale with no chain

DUDLEY

£163,500

For sale with no chain, this three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Corser Street, Dudley, has an asking price via Trinity Property at offers in excess of £163,500.

Including a large lounge, a driveway and a rear garden with a patio and lawn, it briefly comprises a large lounge and fitted kitchen with a separate dining area, three good sized double bedrooms and a house bathroom, with a separate WC. The rear outside has a patio area, lawn and brick built shed.

For further information contact Trinity Property on 01384 213395 or visit www.trinityproperty.net



Ground-floor flat has two good-sized bedrooms

HALESOWEN

£149,950

<<<

A spacious and immaculately presented ground-floor apartment, in Waugh Drive, Hayley Green, Halesowen, is situated in a convenient location close to the town centre, Clent Hills and transport links.

The two-bedroomed property is on sale with Hicks Hadley estate agents for £149,950.

The property includes private entrance, hallway, spacious living room with underfloor heating, two good sized bedrooms, fully fitted kitchen and bathroom. The property further benefits from having well kept communal grounds, garage and parking.

Contact the Halesowen office on 0121 585 6667 or visit www.hickshadley.com



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Modern detached home with a great garden

This modern three-bedroomed detached home in Siddons Road, Coseley, has been tastefully decorated throughout.

The property is on the market with Swinscoes and offers in the region of £199,950 are invited.

Beautifully presented, this family home is situated beyond a driveway and low maintenance fore garden. It

COSELEY

£199,950

is in a prominent residential location in Coseley, in walking distance to favoured local schools and the train station.

This excellent sized home has

been enhanced by the current owners.

The rear garden is landscaped and well maintained with lawns and decking, borders and a selection of shrubs and trees.

For more information contact Swinscoes on 01902 672274 or visit www.swinscoes.co.uk



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If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.

SEDGLEY



Wolverhampton Road,

- A beautiful dormer Bungalow
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- Set among extensive grounds
- Excellent condition
- Three/four bedrooms
- Snooker Room
- Two garages
- EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £400,000

UPPER GORNAL

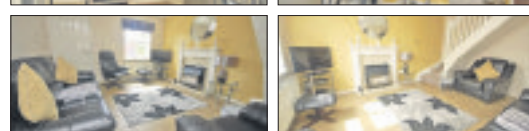


Ox Street,

- A DETACHED home
- Three bedrooms
- Open plan kitchen diner
- Driveway and Garage
- Pleasant cul-de-sac
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £179,950

COSELEY



Crowesbridge Mews,

- An ENLARGED semi-detached
- 3 bedrooms (potential 4th)
- Lounge & dining room
- Breakfast kitchen
- Low maintenance rear garden
- Bathroom and En-suite
- IDEAL family home
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £164,950

LOWER GORNAL



Prospect Road,

- A rare opportunity near Gornal Village
- SPLIT LEVEL HOUSE
- Bedrooms downstairs
- Balcony with fantastic views
- Low maintenance garden
- Opportunity to create ideal home
- FIVE bedrooms
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £244,950

COSELEY

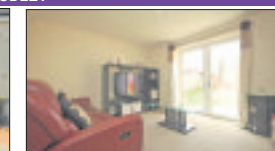


Siddons Road,

- A Modern detached home
- Tastefully decorated throughout
- THREE bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Utility and downstairs wc
- En-suite and bathroom
- Garage and driveway
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £199,950

DUDLEY



Bradfield Way,

- A MODERN townhouse
- Approximately 3/4 years old
- Under NHBC guarantee
- breakfast kitchen
- THREE bedrooms
- Well maintained rear garden
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- EPC Rating - B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £139,950

UPPER GORNAL

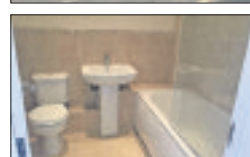


Pale Street,

- A 2 bedroom semi-detached
- MODERN dining kitchen
- Recently built conservatory
- Wet room and utility
- Two double bedrooms
- Fantastic size rear garden
- Ideal FIRST TIME BUY
- EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £127,500

COSELEY

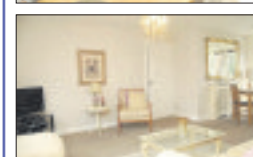


Skidmore Road,

- * BRAND NEW development
- * Two bedrooms
- * Luxury kitchen & bathroom
- * Set over 2 floors
- * Allocated parking
- * Rear gardens
- * Ideal first time buy
- * Flexible mortgages available
- * EPC rating- B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £124,950

41 DUDLEY STREET, SEDGLEY



Dormston Lodge,

- A most attractive, modern, ground floor 2 bedroom apartment
- Conveniently situated in the heart of Sedgley Town.
- Well proportioned and well presented.
- Parking area.
- Electric gates to both front & rear.
- EPC Rating - TBC

£120,000

COSELEY



Bridge Street,

- A well presented semi-detached
- Convenient location for amenities
- Open plan dining kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- THREE bedrooms
- Detached garage
- Off road parking

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £114,950

HIGH HOLBORN, SEDGLEY



Holborn House,

- A most attractive duplex apartment
- Situated in the heart of Sedgley Town
- Uniquely designed layout over 2 floors
- Feature double height ceilings
- One bedroom and two bathrooms
- Another reception room (office/playroom)
- Communal ROOF TERRACE
- Secure parking area
- AN IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £114,950

WOODSETTON



Park Road, Bramford Estate

- A traditional semi-detached
- Bramford Estate location
- THREE bedrooms
- In need of some works
- Good size rear garden
- Driveway parking
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- EPC Rating - E

£109,950

BILSTON



Steven Drive,

- A well presented town house
- TWO bedrooms
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Open plan lounge
- Modern kitchen
- Approx 19 years old
- Landscaped rear garden
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £109,950

SEDGLEY



Etymore Close, Sedgley

- A spacious Maisonette
- Central to Sedgley
- Set over 2 floors
- Two good size bedrooms
- Kitchen & Lounge
- An ideal investment property
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £80,000

LOWER GORNAL



Louise Street,

- First floor flat
- Gornal Village centre
- Rear entrance
- ONE bedroom
- Main shopping street
- Lounge and kitchen
- No DSS No Pets

£320 PCM

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SEDGLEY, The Ridgeway

Superbly presented detached property benefitting from central heating and double glazing. EXTENDED family home boasts porch, hallway, good-sized living room, refitted kitchen with open-plan dining room, guest W/C, utility room, bathroom, FOUR BEDROOMS, garage. Enclosed rear garden with SUMMER HOUSE, driveway to front and MAGNIFICENT PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS to the rear. EPC:E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £269,950



KINGSWINFORD, Kingsley Road

A SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME with a LARGE BEAUTIFULLY LAID OUT REAR GARDEN, superbly located within a highly sought after address, close to desirable schools, offering an IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS FOUR BEDROOM layout. With DRIVEWAY and a LARGE GARAGE. EPC D

£267,000



COSELEY, Crowesbridge Mews

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Fantastically well presented detached home with central heating & double glazing located in popular cul-de-sac. THREE BEDROOM property is tastefully extended & benefits from porch, hallway, breakfast-kitchen, utility room, open-plan lounge, sunroom, bathroom, master bedroom with ensuite, garage/ storage, garden, driveway. EPC:C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £209,950



PENSNETT, Fernhurst Drive

This WELL ARRANGED, FOUR BEDROOM, DETACHED FAMILY HOME has gas central heating and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. In brief; Porch, Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Four Bedrooms (Master with ENSUITE) and House Bathroom. Wide Drive, Garage and Large Rear Garden.

£205,000



WOLVERHAMPTON, Dewsbury Drive, Penn

ENVIABLY SITUATED -Significantly EXTENDED gas centrally heated (recent boiler) and mostly double glazed detached bungalow (backing onto Penn Cricket Club) comprising entrance vestibule, 18'8" reception hall, L shape lounge/dining room, extended kitchen, two (potentially three) bedrooms, conservatory, bathroom, shower room. Carport, block paved driveway, secluded garden. EPC:TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £197,000



TIPTON, Castle Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Enviably situated on the sought after Castle Road, Tipton, this detached residence boasts; central heating and double glazing and an extension to rear. Along with entrance porch this good-sized family home comprises of; hallway, living room, kitchen-diner, sun/ utility room, family bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, garage, garden and driveway to front. EPC: E. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £190,000



SEDGLEY, Langland Drive

An EXTENDED and enlarged freehold gas centrally heated (not tested) primarily UPVC double glazed (as seen) for improvement set in favoured district and offering tremendous potential. Accommodation includes entrance porch, hall, store, 24'4" through living room (previously separate rooms) EXTENDED kitchen (14'6" x 14'3") three bedrooms (third bedroom enlarged into eaves), bathroom, garage, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £165,000



SEDGLEY, Dormston Drive

IS THIS THE CHEAPEST DETACHED IN SEDGLEY? Conveniently situated in a "backwater" within walking distance of the Bull Ring; a Freehold, gas radiator centrally heated, and uPVC double glazed detached comprising; entrance hallway, cloaks, 24'5" through living/dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms (all with fitted wardrobes), bathroom. Extensive block paving, secluded "low maintenance" rear garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers around £154,950



LOWER GORNAL, Grosvenor Road

VERY FLEXIBLE ACCOMMODATION! - Surprisingly spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed dormer style detached within walking distance of so many amenities & enjoying good distant views comprising; entrance porch, reception hall, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS (en suite to master), two large garages, front and rear gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £154,950, NOW £150,000



GORNAL WOOD, Hopyard Lane

VENDORS TO PAY STAMP DUTY. EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed detached presented in exemplary order comprising; reception hall, cloakroom, sitting room with quality inter-war Minster fireplace, magnificent dining kitchen, dining room, CONSERVATORY, utility room. Principal bedroom with shower room en suite, three further bedrooms, bathroom, large garage, alarm systems, garden parking. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, The Mead, Northway

3 BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW - ENVIABLY SITUATED at head of cul-de-sac with MAGNIFICENT GARDENS. Gas centrally heated, mostly double glazed EXTENDED detached bungalow (with further potential) providing; porch, hall, cloak, two double bedrooms, bathroom, 22'3" living/dining room, lobby with principal bedroom & shower room, kitchen, Verandah, large garage, store, Conservatory. Delightful gardens. EPC: E. SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Keats Close, Straits

Conscientiously maintained, significantly improved, & enlarged freehold gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed detached bungalow in favoured neighbourhood with MAGNIFICENT LENGTHY GARDEN & panoramic distant views including; porch, central reception hall, lounge, bathroom, utility room, extended 22ft dining room/kitchen, two double bedrooms. Parking & superb expertly tended gardens. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £329,950

Offers in the region of £260,000

Offers in the region of £227,500



KINGSWINFORD, Summerhill

This LUXURY DETACHED BUNGALOW enjoys a SECLUDED SETTING from a shared drive off Summerhill, a short level walk to Kingswinford's amenities, offers; Hall, 19' LOUNGE, separate Dining Room (both could create a Lounge/Dining area and a Bedroom 3), Feature Kitchen, Two fitted bedrooms, En-Suite and Master Bathroom. Forecourt Parking, Garage, and Rear level patio/lawned garden. EPC: D



£274,950



DUDLEY, Cardoness Place

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Gas centrally heated double glazed (majority UPVC) semi detached in favoured/convenient district (close to Milking Bank amenities) with entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, pantry. THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, potential garage space, sheltered expertly landscaped rear garden.. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Fixed Price £150,000



QUARRY BANK, Westfield Road

This BAY FRONTED & TRADITIONAL, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises; Porch, Reception Hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Kitchen, Three First Floor Bedrooms, House Bathroom, Driveway, Excellent Garage, Guests W.C and Lovely Rear Garden. EPC: D

£149,950



WOLVERHAMPTON, Grosvenor Road, Ettingshall Park

Mostly UPVC double glazed, radiator centrally heated semi detached bungalow for modernisation offering potential convenient for so many day-to-day amenities comprising; reception hall, two bedrooms (both with wardrobes), bathroom, living/dining room, kitchen. Brick garage, lengthy drive, garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

New price WAS £155,000, NOW £149,950



WOODSETTON, Flavell Street

A well presented, extended traditional semi-detached property situated in sought after area of Woodsetton. This good size family home benefits from entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen. THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, double glazing and central heating, enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. EPC: D SEDGLEY



TIVIDALE, Tower Road

Stylishly presented, traditional semi-detached property having upvc double glazing, gas central heating system and burglar alarm. EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM family home offers driveway to front, entrance hall, living room with bay, dining area, impressive refitted and extended kitchen with built in appliances, breakfasting area, refitted bathroom with shower and rear gardens with pleasant backdrop. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £139,950



BRIERLEY HILL, Planet Road

THIS RATHER LOVELY & BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises; Large Hall, Superb Sitting Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Well Appointed Shower Room with Separate W.C, Garage & FANTASTIC GARDEN. EPC: D

£134,950



LANESFIELD, Ward Grove

ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING comprehensively renovated, freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached bungalow in convenient district. Superb accommodation provides refitted hub of the home's kitchen with a fine range of units (various integrated appliances), reapointed shower room, lounge with bay, walk in store, two double bedrooms, gardens. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £129,950



COSELEY, Bridgewater Drive

Well presented, conscientiously maintained, gas centrally heated & double glazed semi-detached extremely convenient for bus/RAIL connection & other amenities. comprising; hallway, lounge, breakfast kitchen (with integrated appliances), two bedrooms (one with double wardrobe), bathroom with white 'rope twist' suite chrome detailing and a shower, gated driveway (potential garage space), landscaped/secluded rear garden. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £129,950



COSELEY, Painters Croft

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Attractive, Freehold, gas centrally heated, UPVC double glazed semi detached 'starter home' with driveway parking (and further potential) in cul-de-sac comprising; hallway, L shape lounge, dining kitchen with a fine range of units & double opening French doors out to the garden. Two generous bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, gardens. EPC: D. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £117,000



BRIERLEY HILL, Waterfront West

This STUNNING & CONTEMPORARY, OPEN PLAN FLAT comprises; Hall, Stunning Open Plan Lounge with MODERN GLOSS KITCHEN with integrated appliances, Generous Double Bedroom, Gorgeous White Suite Bathroom, Allocated Parking, Communal Gardens. EPC: E

£112,500



TIPTON, Chatwins Wharf

Arguably THE FINEST LOCATION (?) for favoured retirement development for the over 55's - an absolutely outstanding, gas centrally heated, majority UPVC double glazed 'end' bungalow with open aspect in quiet 'backwater' yet within minutes walking distance of the Town Centre/facilities comprising; entrance hallway, store, living room, refitted kitchen, pantry, two bedrooms, wet/shower room. Communal grounds, allocated parking. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region £105,000



PENSNETT, Chapel Street

THIS RATHER CHARMING & BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED, TWO BEDROOM, TERRACE PROPERTY comprises; Attractive Lounge with Feature Fireplace, Breakfast Kitchen, Two Generous First Floor Bedrooms, White Suite Bathroom & Very Pleasant Garden. EPC: E

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BRIERLEY HILL, Adelaide Street

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LINDA, 58, lonely lady, likes walks in the countryside and meals out. WLTM a gentleman, 59-64, n/s, Coventry area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423547

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

CARRIE single 29yr old slim pretty Care Assistant, looking for a fun guy for nights in/out, good times, love and laughter. Give me a ring. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423489

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 421657

BEV 32, fit, petite, very pretty, trendy with a great figure and big personality, loves animals, children and WLTM fun male to be my soul mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423473

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

CAROL, 38, slim gorgeous brunette with lots of interests looking to put some romance back into life, seeking willing male to spoil rotten and vice versa. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423439

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 423663

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423493

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

DONNA, vivacious slim brunette, 48, lives for today, fit and fun loving, seeks active, easygoing male for companionship. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423477

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

LYN, 51, tall curvy blue eyed brunette loves countryside, motor sports and cuddles, seeks tactile romantic male for some fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423443

LORRAINE, attractive solvent brunette, 34yrs, own house/car with, gent any age, looks unimportant but must have GSOH. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 422415

JEAN, 56, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man seeks mature male to share relaxed relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423305

JESS, pretty blonde lady. 29yrs, feminine and caring. Loves older mature men who are worldly wise. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. Text Only Box: 4000683

STACY 28yr old gorgeous brunette with buxom figure, intelligent and sensual, WLTM genuine male to get to know for fun dates and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377509

KATRINA, professional sincere lady, 48yrs, loves to have a good time. Very sensual and loves men of all ages. Please text me for a chat. Text only Box 4148978

MATURE

female 63, large breasted, seeks assertive younger man 30-50 for adult fun. Must be discreet. Text only Mailbox: 5495834

VERY attractive intelligent blonde, 59, WLTM tall attractive solvent man. No Tattoos. South Yorks. Text only Mailbox: 5430085

55 year old female looking for friendship, meals out, coffee, chats, work part time and care for parent. Text only Mailbox: 5517508

VERY attractive blonde lady, own house in lovely village, loves travel, entertaining, exercise, would like to meet tall attractive solvent male. Text only Mailbox: 543005

CAROLINE slim attractive 40's fit female, OHAC, divorced and ready to be romanced again, seeks similar minded male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423301

JEAN, 56, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man seeks mature male to share relaxed relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423305

BLACK, attractive cultured lady seeks white gentleman, age 40-60 for friendship first perhaps LTR later. Text only Mailbox: 5511784

KATHERINE, 45, romantic, slim, blonde, loves to go out, likes to be full, seeks adventurous outgoing male to appreciate and share intimate times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423261

LORNA 34, sensual, shapely brunette WLTM tall friendly guy for romantic no strings fun. Ask no questions, I'll tell you lies! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423241

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757

CATHY attractive 35yr singleton, varied interests, looking for trustworthy male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423231

SARAH 39, blonde hair, blue/green eyes, fun loving and romantic looking for new possibilities with well built, dark haired tactile male. Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423093

LOVELY Oriental lady in Carmarthenshire seeks older man 70+ to share company and special times and to be a partner. Text only Mailbox: 5506384

RETIRED happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459

LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679

JANE, very attractive blonde, own house in lovely village, car etc, loves travel to sunny places, entertaining, exercise, WLTM male with similar interests. Text only Mailbox: 5504085

ATTRACTIVE energetic mature lady, looking for well-travelled, solvent companion for holidays, dining out and days away. Text only Mailbox: 5502846

BROWN eyed brummie female 65 smoker likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTM male 65 - 73 for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5501142

BROWN eyed brummie female, 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTM male, 66-73, for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 4400186

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SINGLE

tall blonde, 30yrs, bored of life mundan routines looking for some discreet fun with likeminded man, any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423089

CAROL, 44, brunette with plenty of spare time on her hands seeks special mature male for fun times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423057

ALISON 28, feminine, outgoing, adventurous brunette who knows what she wants, seeks fit, fun loving man to sweep her off her feet. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423061

SABINA, 35, outgoing attractive brunette, fit and carefree just looking for fun times without complications, maybe more later. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423003

EILEEN 49, lovely brunette, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423007

JOANNA, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. Text only Mailbox: 5428223

YOUNG, big boobed, single mum. Looking for a fun guy, but wants to be spoiled. Relationship ideally but happy with no strings fun. Text only Mailbox: 5595895

ATTRACTIVE slim 54yr old female looking for caring genuine male 50-58 yrs to wine and dine with, share nice times with, please get in touch. Text only Mailbox: 5595895

TINA, 41, WLTM Muslim men, Pakistani, Kurdish, Turkish for daytime or evening fun, can accommodate, can travel, very discreet. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422927

Single Men

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GUY, 47, 5ft7, dark hair, blue eyes, loves music, DVDs, nights in and out, seeks female, 30-42, for friendship and LTR, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423559

JIMBO, friendly fun loving chap, 42yrs, own building company. Divorced, no kids. Wants a kind caring lady to spoil, any age, single mums welcome. Text Only Box: 4036422

TONY, 58, tall, dark hair, seeks mature female, 65+, for hassle free liaisons, looks not important. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423389

KEN, 53, married and looking for no strings, adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423379

ANDY, from West Brom, slim, very young looking 49, looking for a special lady to spend fun times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421747

MALE, young looking 49, 5ft5, slim build, from West Bromwich, likes films, socialising, looking for a fun lady who likes to laugh, for good times/possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421783

ROBERT, slim, intelligent, N/S, 50's, seeks attractive, younger female for uncomplicated friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 312443

EDDIE, young looking 54, painter and decorator by trade, likes going out and having good time, sport and all kinds of music, looking for a LTR with a caring, honest, trustworthy person, as I am. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423113

ROBERT, slim, intelligent, N/S, 50's, seeks attractive, younger female for uncomplicated friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 312443

DAVE, 54, 5ft10, medium build, easy going, happy, looking for an attractive, loving and caring female, 45-65, for friendship and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423073

MIKE 49, slim, young looks, seeks female, 35-50 for friendship and going out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 356651

MALE 57, tall, seeks mature female, 50-75, for close adult fun, any size status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422409

MALE

59, N/S, fit, slim, seeks attractive slim female for discreet no strings friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413655

RETIRED widower, 57", slim salt/pepper hair, active active, interests vary, loyal, trustworthy, reliable, seeks mature lady for friendship. Text only Mailbox: 4906469

KATIE 38 year old male, fun loving, tall, blue eyes, looking for caring 30 to 50 year old female, passionate and fun loving. Text only Mailbox: 5516385

FIT mechanic, looking for female any age for friends with benefits arrangement. Text only Mailbox: 4605333

MALE 45, easy going, looking for a lady for adult fun. Cardiff area. Text only Mailbox: 551485

MATURE, passionate male, 30s WLTM a lady, grab the chance while I am single! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423195

JOE, semi retired, young looking and acting, slim and fit, 5ft8, considered a good company, looking for daytime meets. Let's see if we click. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422803

MALE, 41, shaven hair, dark brown eyes, athletic build, open minded, up for NSA fun with a female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423349

WIDOWER, 73, near Coventry, healthy and very active, seeks female, 58-68, for companionship, days out, theatre, and regular short trips to property in Marbaia. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423339

TALL attractive male, 56, looking to meet a mature woman, size 18 plus, any age, for close fun times. Text only Mailbox: 5410860

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ATTRACTIVE male, 58, N/S, fit, missing pleasant female company, seeks open-minded, slim, attractive female for discreet liaisons. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384406

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IRISH male, 60s, 5ft9, independent, n/s, wishes to meet a lady in the Birmingham area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420859

SHAUN, short black hair, mixed race, 5ft7, average build, looking for a lady, looks not important but a great personality is a must! Hanley area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423107

DAVE, 54, 5ft10, medium build, easy going, happy, looking for an attractive, loving and caring female, 45-65, for friendship and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423073

MIKE 49, slim, young looks, seeks female, 35-50 for friendship and going out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 356651

MALE 57, tall, seeks mature female, 50-75, for close adult fun, any size status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422409

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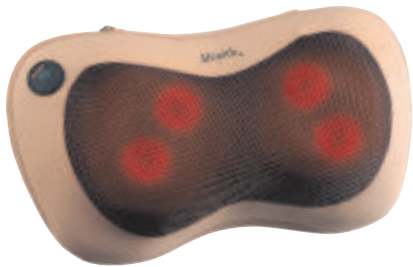
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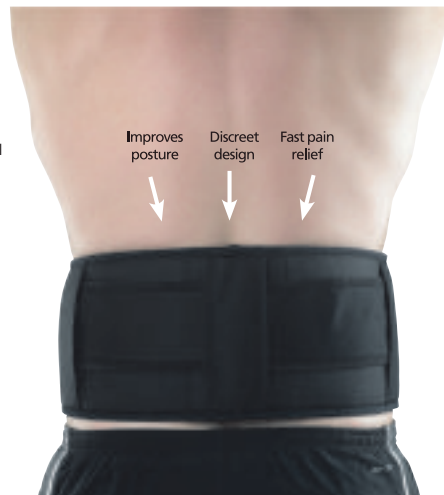
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Jimi Lewis – penalty hero in 1999



Cannock hockey club's title-winning line-up of 1996 – the first of seven league championships during a 10-year period of dominance



Cannock celebrate the National League winners trophy in 2003



Chris Mayer - family affair



Craig Parnham in action for Cannock

Club champions go for gold in Olympics role

THIS year marks the 20th anniversary since the Cannock Men's Hockey team won their first national championship. This success, in 1995/96, was the first of many in what was a dominant period for the side.

Since the league's inception in 1988/89, Cannock have won the National League seven times, with all seven titles coming in a 10-year period, starting with that 1996 triumph. During the same period, Cannock also won three national cups and lifted the double in both 1998 and 2005.

Cannock's success was highlighted by the personal achievements of a number of the players. From 1998-2004 Cannock were proudly represented by a number of players at Olympic Games. Craig Parnham competed at both Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004, Jimi Lewis was also at Sydney and Chris Mayer competed four years previously in Atlanta.

Treasured

After such successful careers at Cannock, and at national level, all three have taken the opportunity to be involved in coaching.

Parnham is the current USA women's head coach, Lewis, a former netminder, is the current goalkeeper coach for the German national team, while Mayer currently coaches at Solihull School, having previously coached for England, and Leicester Ladies.

All three hold treasured memories of their time at Cannock, most notably their play-off success against Reading in 1999, in which all three played. The game went to penalties after Cannock fought back from 3-1 down to draw. Lewis earned hero status, saving three of the six flicks he faced.

Mayer saw it as the ultimate achievement. "It was the first year that play-offs had been done, we had won the league at a canter but you could only

SPORTING FEATURE

By Adam Cooper

"We had won the league at a canter but you could only call yourselves champions if you won the final. We did."

call yourselves champions if you won the final. We did."

It wasn't until the late-1980s that Cannock began to be recognised as an elite club. The biggest step was qualifying for the National League in 1988, meaning the club could compete and attract some of the sport's biggest names.

What followed was a dominant 10 years and Cannock's most successful period to date.

The 90s saw Cannock recognised as an elite coaching and training club, which in turn boosted their status, though Lewis admits he found it tough to leave Havant, where he had previously spent his entire career.

"I'd moved up through the youth teams into the first team. We got relegated in the 1996/97 season and to continue competing for a spot in the men's senior national team I decided I needed to be playing for a Premier League team," he said.

"I knew a lot of Cannock players through the national team set up and I liked the working man's attitude of the club."

Mayer, meanwhile, saw it as an opportunity to follow in his family's footsteps. Having watched his elders play before him for a number of years, he wanted to continue the family legacy.

He said: "My father was a player at the club and

both my brother and I used to go and watch him play. Once old enough I started to play for the club.

"My first game was for the sixth team when I was 11. I played left wing. We lost 10-0! My grandfather, uncle and brother all played at Cannock too," he added.

Parnham's decision was based simply on Cannock's status as the best in the country.

With the Rio Olympics now under way, both Lewis and Parnham, who will be coaching their respective nations at the Games against Team GB, coached by former Cannock team-mate Bobby Crutchley who has been involved with the national side since 2005.

During his playing career Crutchley was lucky enough to played worldwide for both club and country. At club level, he played in Australia and Italy as well as at a number of clubs in England and won numerous titles at both Cannock and Hounslow.

Crutchley was top scorer in all three countries and earned the right to play at national level when he won bronze at the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

Experience

Crutchley also took the opportunity to coach part-time, gaining valuable experience with regard to his current position as England first-team coach.

He said: "I had done a lot of coaching while still playing, so had a significant amount of experience when I finished playing. I then got really lucky getting the job at the University of Bath, where a number of other sports were based, so I got the opportunity to learn from a lot of highly successful coaches."

"During this time I started to work with the England junior teams and gradually got more opportunities."

Crutchley is hoping to lead England to their first gold medal since 1988. Lewis will be seeking a back-to-back gold medal with the German national team, while Parnham will strive for the USA women's first ever Olympic gold.

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Stagger was a hard slog in the heat

THE weekend's action started on Saturday evening for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club as a handful of club members made the short journey to Mary Steven's Park in Stourbridge for the Stourbridge Stagger.

The 10k race over a difficult, undulating course run on farm tracks, footpaths and fields is always a good test but the warm conditions and overgrown hedges made it a tougher test than in previous years.

Helen Tromans claimed victory in the ladies' race finishing 24th overall in a personal course record time of 44.34 from Aimee Palace, of Cobra RC, who finished in a time of 45.44 and former DK athlete, Heather Fisher, now running for Sheffield RC, in 46.24 to take 3rd spot.

The men's race was won at a canter by Martin Williams, of Wolves & Bilston, who finished untroubled in 35.08 from James Marshall, who claimed 2nd place in 37.14 passing Paul Hammond in the shadow of the line, the Mercia Fell Runner claiming 3rd place in 37.19.

Stuart Perkins was first of the hoops home bagging 6th place in a time of 39.17, Mark Homer finished in 42.54 in 16th place claiming the 1st MV50 prize, Mick Quane crossed the line in 19th in 44.01, Pete Hood finished in 45.51 in 32nd, Dave Hickman was 55th in 49.55, John Andrews was 67th in 51.47.

Jacqui Elson-Whittaker finished 92nd in 54.53, Sally McConville was 97th in 56.07, Carol Fisher, returning from injury, claimed 103rd place in 56.24 and Liz Hettle finished in 1.02.04 in 139th place.

In the Leek Half Marathon Matt Biggs continued his good form finishing in 5th in 1.23.00, Dave Norman claimed 18th place in 1.32.24 and Andy Morrison was 105th in 2.00.54.

Final heat pairing claim last-gasp win for Heathens

DEADLY duo Ashley Morris and Max Clegg secured a last-gasp maximum to maintain Heathens' play-off push.

Will Pottinger's men looked like letting it slip against Isle of Wight but edged home 45-44 for their second away win of the season.

Boss Pottinger said: "This was a crucial win and it could be massive at the end of the season."

The Warriors were hit by the loss of ex-Heathens racer Tyler Govier after a crash in his opening heat.

And when George Piper crashed in the re-run it handed Bradley Andrews and Ben Basford a gift 5-0 to hand the Heathens a handy early lead.

But when Warriors No.1 clocked the fastest time of the season in Heat 6 the island side were edging back towards the Heathens.

Isle of Wight led by three going into the last race and the Morris - Clegg combination secured the 5-1 they needed.

Isle of Wight: Mark Bassey 10-1, James Cocker 10, Lee Smart 10, Kelsey Dugard 6+2, Chris Widman 6+1, George Piper 2, Tyler Govier 0
 Cradley: Ashley Morris 14, Max Clegg 10+1, Luke Chessell 7+1, Bradley Andrews 7+1, Richard Andrews 5+1, Ben Basford 2+1, James Purchase r/r

Singh adds to his double success

JORDAN Singh claimed his first BDO ranking title in two years after going all of the way at the European Youth Open.

The England Youth international was the top boy in the prospects' ranks competing at the same venue in Blackpool as the organisation's men and women.

The 17-year-old from Darlaston, who lives in Walsall, had previously taken International and British Open honours, but last weekend's glory ended a long-wait to make it a hat-trick, beating Bradley Brooks in the final following his defeat of Dudley's Reece Colley in the last four.

Darts

That was one prize settled on the inaugural European Darts Weekend, sponsored by the sports' brand Winnmau and events company Showlights. com, at the Norbreck Castle Hotel.

Tipton's Jamie Hughes recorded the best run of the West Midlands throwers in the Saturday's European Classic, reaching the last 32.

Bloxwich's Shaun Carroll was also in Group Four but lost 4-3 to Bryn Suckley after eliminating Ross Gilder Jnr and Carl Dannel. Stuckley went on to put out Hughes following his wins over

Geraint Davies 4-1, and then 4-3 results over Andrew Beaumont and Dave Parletti.

Cannock's Mark Craddock, Wednesbury's Matthew Dicken, Wolverhampton's Michael Baker and Tipton's Chris Glover all bowed out after their first tie.

Hughes was also the pick of the West Midlands' darters in Sunday's European Open, going a phase further to the last 16. Carroll made it to the last 32 in Group Five, while Baker got to the last 64 in Group Two.

Craddock, after a bye, was beaten 4-1 by Matt Padgett at the last 128 stage in Group Five, after Dicken and Glover had already gone out.

Hatton leads his charges into battle

BOXING legend Ricky Hatton will co-promote on a bill at Walsall FC next month.

Hatton will be in the corner when two of his proteges feature in chief support bouts for the On the Rise card at the Banks's Stadium on September 2, held in conjunction with Errol Johnson's Black Country Boxing.

Headlining at the Stadium Suite will be Halesowen's super middleweight Lennox Clarke.

The undefeated 25-year-old is looking to extend his record to 13 wins, having already registered five TKOs, without reply.

Hatton will lead heavyweight Nathan Gorman and super welterweight Reuben Arrowsmith into battle, as part of the supporting cast.

Three more bouts comprise the under-card with Sandwell's Manny Zaber, Wolverhampton's Kyle Williams and Adam Harper all featuring.

Zaber, from Old Hill, has racked up seven wins from seven pro contests since turning over from the unlicensed circuit and is targeting a super featherweight showdown with Dudley's Les Byfield.

Former world kickboxing champion Williams, 24, aims to make it a hat-trick of boxing victories after outpointing Anwar Alfadil and Ian Halsall at ban-tamweight so far.

Harper, from Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire, has claimed British and International Challenge middleweight titles in just five contests since first punching for pay.

Tickets are on sale now at £30 for a standard unreserved seat with VIPs at £60, including a two-course meal on tables of 10.

For more information and to purchase, call the Walsall FC box office on 01922 651 414, extension 416.

Injury blow as Yeltz fall at home again

Halesowen Town 2 Gresley FC 4
 HALESOWEN suffered a third consecutive home friendly defeat. The Yeltz also suffered a double early injury blow with Ashley Parsons-Smith stretched out in the 10th minute after bundling into Matt Melbourne in the penalty area.

A penalty was awarded and Pearson Mwanyongo scored. Parsons-Smith's replacement Bradley Lewis lasted two minutes before limping off, to be replaced by Asa Charlton.

Courtney Meade put Gresley 2-0 ahead before Yeltz pulled two back from a trialist and Thyree Clarke. Toby Fura added two more for Gresley.

TWO brothers from Stourbridge are making waves on the long-distance racing scene – even though one of them only learned to swim last year.

Nigel, aged 38, and Chris Gaskin, 43, excelled in back-to-back events in France while representing Team GB.

The duo were selected to compete at the European Aquathlon Championships in Châteauroux. The race was made up of a 1km open water swim, followed by a 5km run. Nigel came third overall in the 35-39 age group, with Chris finishing 12th in the 40-44 category.

On the following day, they competed in the Triathlon International De Châteauroux Grand Prix Des Nations.

The event was a draft legal triathlon, meaning a triathlete can ride in a group with other triathletes during the bike leg, and consisted of a 750m open water swim, a 21km draft legal bike ride and a 5km mixed terrain run.

Nigel came home as the fastest GB athlete, finishing second in his age group, while Chris finished as the second fastest GB man and fifth in his category.

Fantastic

Looking back at the two events, Nigel said: "It was a tremendous feeling representing our country."

"The conditions were very tough but it was a fantastic experience and I'm proud to have been the fastest athlete from GB in the triathlon, especially as I'd never been involved in that kind of event."

Chris, who is still a relative beginner in terms of aquathlons and triathlons, remarkably taught himself to swim at the back end of last year. He said: "I'd never taken to swimming like my brother did as a youngster, but I decided I'd like to have a go at doing a triathlon."

"So in November last year I taught myself to swim, making it my goal to race in a triathlon event."

"I never expected to be selected for Team GB so soon, never mind bringing home a one-two with my brother in the triathlon."

Nigel was jetting off to the Sunshine Coast in



Chris Gaskin, left, and brother Nigel are making waves as endurance sportsmen

Australia this week to prepare for Ironman 70.3 World Championship race on September 4. He explained how he and James got involved with long-distance events.

"I have done sport all my life, I have been a competitive swimmer since an early age and I still am," he said.

"In the last few years, after London 2012, I moved into triathlon as it seemed to make sense so I decided to give it a go."

"Chris didn't take to swimming like myself but he's a very good cyclist and a strong runner. We have just both been sporty and it's been a natural

progression for us. I'm off to Australia to do a few weeks training for the Ironman 70.3 World Championships."

"I think Chris has got a number of local events coming up but he's not competing with me in Australia."

Nigel, who is sponsored by Ashmei clothing and Bridgton Cycles in Cannock, highlighted two famous triathletes who are brothers – Alistair and Jonny Brownlee – and joked: "With the Rio Olympics, triathlons are very popular at the moment."

"With the Brownlee brothers and us being brothers, being compared to them would be nice."

★★★

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